

**2020 RES-440**  
**RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, racism is a public health crisis that disproportionately affects black pregnant people and black infants; and

**WHEREAS**, black infants have two times the infant mortality as non-Hispanic whites, and are nearly four times more likely to die from complications as non-Hispanic whites; and black mothers are four times more likely to die from pregnancy as non-Hispanic white mothers, regardless of factors that are associated with greater socioeconomic class, such as higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, systematic racism which is prevalent in many healthcare systems, prevents black pregnant people and black infants from receiving proper care; and addressing systematic racism in healthcare and investing in social determinants of health that improve maternal health outcomes, such as doula care, may improve racial disparities in black maternal and infant mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to investing in doula care, adequate health insurance, infant feeding, mental health, and providing care to incarcerated pregnant people, dedicating a week to commemorate improving black maternal health care may bring additional awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing black maternal health week from April 11, 2021 to April 17, 2021 is an appropriate way to begin bringing awareness to an issue that directly affects black pregnant people and black infants in our own communities and exemplifies the dedication of elected officials, as well as the Dane County community, to rectifying the disparities of black pregnant people and black infants in the healthcare system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes April 11 to April 17 as Black Maternal Health Week.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Analiese Eicher, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk