

# **PROCLAMATION**

## **Black Maternal Health Week**

**WHEREAS**, pregnancy and birth should be one of the most joyous times in a family's life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMRC), was formed in 2013, and a subcommittee in 2018 to investigate factors contributing to disparities in maternal mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 joint biennial report of the MMRC and the Department of State Health Services estimates that up to 90% of the deaths it reviewed may have been preventable and severe medical complications from pregnancy and childbirth also increased significantly between 2018 and 2020 in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Maternal Health Week, created by Black Mamas Matter Alliance, is formally observed April 11th-17th as a means to draw attention to maternal mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, North Central Texas is one of two regions with the highest severe maternal morbidity rates and in Texas, Black women are more likely to die from pregnancy related causes; and

**WHEREAS**, community partners in Tarrant County work on a continual basis to provide education, research, enhance services, advocate for policy and collaborate with the community; and

**WHEREAS**, community members in Tarrant County contribute their voices and share their lived experiences to help raise awareness of the challenges and joys in pregnancy and childbirth.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, do hereby declare the week of April 11-17th, 2023 as Black Maternal Health Week in Tarrant County, and further appreciate and commend the work of the Black Maternal Health Week Committee, spearheaded by Dr. Kyras Brown and Misty Wilder, and comprised of the University of Texas at Arlington Maternal Child Health Equity Lab, UNTHSC Healthy Start, Tarrant County Public Health, the Health Equity Alliance, National Birth Equity Collaborative and the Tarrant County Birth Equity Collaborative, for their coordinated efforts to commemorate the week through educational, faith-based and networking events as well as every organization and community member involved in working to improve Tarrant County maternal and birth outcomes, for their outstanding and dedicated service.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Tarrant County to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

(Over Entire Court signatures)