

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Councilmember Esmeralda Soria

Is hereby presented in honor of:

Prematurity Awareness Month

WHEREAS, preterm birth is the delivery of an infant before 37 weeks of pregnancy, it often results in babies being born too small with complications that can last a lifetime. Preterm birth is a leading cause of infant mortality before age 1 in the United States and the preterm birthrate in many Central Valley counties rank above the California state average; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic disparities exist with a rate of 9.4% for white women and 15.2% for black women. The black infant mortality is more than three times the rate of white infants in the County of Fresno. Decreasing the racial disparities in preterm birth requires collaboration among local, state, and federal governments, healthcare systems, providers, and social service organizations, and equitable investments in the services, programs, and environmental conditions that impact Black, Indigenous, and birthing persons of color; and

WHEREAS, Doulas, are providers within the healthcare system with a specialized nonmedical role who provide continuous support for pregnant persons throughout pregnancy, birth, and after birth. Doulas have been demonstrated to reduce the risk of preterm birth up to 49% and reduce the risk of preventable infant and maternal mortality for women of color; and

WHEREAS, breastmilk is rich in nutrients, critical to brain growth, infection prevention, and nervous system development for infants. Women with Doula support are 10.5 times more likely to breastfeed; and

WHEREAS, no woman or baby should experience a preventable preterm birth, and no woman or baby should die from a preventable death.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Fresno Mayor and City Council hereby proclaim the month of November 2021 to be:

“Prematurity Awareness Month”

in the City of Fresno

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 4th day of November 2021.

ESMERALDA SORIA, Councilmember, District 1

MIKE KARBASSI, Councilmember, District 2

MIGUEL ARIAS, Councilmember, District 3

TYLER MAXWELL, Councilmember, District 4

LUIS CHAVEZ, Council President, District 5

GARRY BREDEFELD, Councilmember, District 6

NELSON ESPARZA, Council Vice President, District 7

JERRY DYER, Honorable Mayor