

A Resolution

NO. _____

SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC/PRIVATE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUP IN ITS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE MATERNAL, INFANT, AND CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL FUNDING IN FURTHERANCE OF SUCH EFFORTS

WHEREAS, Fort Worth strives to ensure available resources and enhanced opportunities are accessible by all of its residents, including its most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, infants and pregnant women are often among those most vulnerable populations that would benefit from additional support; and

WHEREAS, September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate reflects the number of children dying before reaching one year of age per 1,000 live births; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate varies dramatically by zip code in Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, in Tarrant County alone, there are at least 6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private sector providers currently offer resources and assistance to improve maternal outcomes and aid pregnant women and their children; and

WHEREAS, enhancing coordination among the providers working in this space could better connect the right existing services with those who need them and could also enhance efforts to raise public awareness of those resources and to advocate for their expansion to encompass an infrastructure of community support and opportunities for advancement; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker joined fourteen other public and private sector community leaders representing healthcare, childcare and education, and social services in issuing a statement that calls on the community to work together to develop and facilitate a holistic approach to support maternal and infant support services such as quality childcare and wraparound assistance, to work to provide a safer childhood for the City's most vulnerable residents, to identify and advocate for positive legislative changes such as addressing the childcare crisis and expanding postpartum healthcare and support services; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that raising safe and healthy children is critical to the quality of life and continued vitality of the City of Fort Worth and that having safe and healthy parents is integral to the health and safety of those children, the City Council whole-heartedly supports taking a more proactive approach to enhancing the aid and broadening the opportunities available to infants, children, and expectant mothers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS, THAT:

1. The City supports the public/private multi-disciplinary working group in their efforts to enhance maternal and infant health outcomes, improve childcare and educational resources, and expand opportunities and supportive community infrastructure in order to further the efforts of providing every child in Fort Worth with a safe and healthy childhood.

2. City Manager David Cooke is directed to explore and present to the City Council options to provide funding in furtherance of these efforts, in particular by leveraging American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or other appropriate federal or state funds.

Adopted this 27th day of September, 2022.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary