Introduced by Council Member Morgan:

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RESOLUTION 2022-293

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11-17, 2022 AS "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK" JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, rates of maternal morbidity and mortality (MMM) are much higher in the United States than in its peer nations. National severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rates have nearly doubled over the past decade, and the incidence of SMM was 166% higher for Black women than White women from 2012 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Black women in Florida experienced pregnancyrelated mortality at a rate nearly three times that of white women, with 32 deaths per 100,000 live births as compared to 12.9 deaths per 100,000 deaths, respectively; and

WHEREAS, these deaths have devastating effects on Black children and families, and the vast majority of these deaths are preventable through efforts to ensure that there is access to information, services, and support for Black families to make their own health care decisions, particularly around pregnancy and childbearing; and

WHEREAS, to help mitigate SMM, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance will observe Black Maternal Health Week during the second week of April this year to raise awareness of the problem; enrich the dialogue surrounding Black maternal health; promote solutions, policies, and research; and increase community involvement in the fight to end maternal mortality both locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville suffers the same Black maternal morbidity and mortality issues as Florida and the nation, and the City Council

wishes to encourage more education and action on the part of the community to help reduce this distressing situation; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

Section 1. The City Council hereby declares the week of April 11-17, 2022 as "Black Maternal Health Week" in Jacksonville and encourages all citizens to become more informed on the issues surrounding Black maternal health and to advocate for solutions to this pressing problem.

Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901. Emergency passage upon introduction of this Resolution is requested in order to designate the week in a timely manner.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Paige H. Johnston

20 Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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