

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

**BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK | 2024**

**WHEREAS,** the maternal mortality rate in NC doubled since 2019, exacerbated by the global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** 1 in 3 babies in Durham County are birthed to Black women; and

**WHEREAS,** Black women nationwide, regardless of income or education level, are three to four times more likely to die from preventable pregnancy-related complications and;

**WHEREAS,** Research demonstrates that the services of diverse birth workers, health advocates, community organizations, and healthcare providers are a crucial component of eliminating disparities, enhancing Black maternal safety and improving birth and health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS,** we recognize and uplift community-based responses to addressing this crisis and we promote initiatives that reduce Black maternal morbidity and mortality such as doula services, midwifery services, peer support, mutual aid and mental wellness support; and

**WHEREAS,** Black women deserve to have beautiful, safe pregnancy and birth experiences with access to care of their choice through being empowered and resourced to make informed decisions based on their needs; and

**WHEREAS,** Black Maternal Health Week was founded by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance to increase awareness around the state of Black Maternal Health and promote activism and investment in solutions; and

**WHEREAS,** attention and action is needed to improve Black maternal health outcomes in Durham and across North Carolina;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 11 – 17, 2024, as

**“BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK”**

in Durham County.

This the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

---

Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

