

19 FEB 28 AM 10:11

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: February 27, 2019

To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Council President Kaplan
Re: Resolution Declaring May 19th As Postpartum Justice Day

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

The term following the six weeks after childbirth is referred to as the postpartum period. Postpartum care is a critical period for new parents and their children to ensure well-being and long term positive health outcomes.

The US is the only industrialized country without a national paid maternity leave policy and nearly 1 in 4 new moms/birthing people in the US return to work within 2 weeks of giving birth. However, in the U.S., there has been an increase in birth related deaths and half of those occurred within the first 42 days after birth. New parents frequently go to their doctors, midwives, and doulas during birth, but the number of visits significantly drops down after birth.

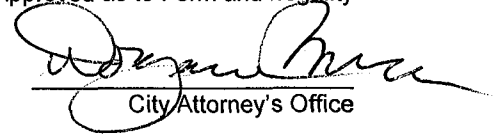
To raise awareness of the importance of postpartum care for birthing people, I am asking the Oakland City Council to recognize May 19th as Postpartum Justice Day.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kaplan
Council President

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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAPLAN

RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 19th AS POSTPARTUM JUSTICE DAY

WHEREAS, the term following the six weeks after childbirth is referred to as the postpartum period; and

WHEREAS, the US is the only industrialized country without a national paid maternity leave policy and in a study by International Labor Organization, an agency of the United Nations, compared to other developed countries, the United States also mandates the shortest period of time off; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 4 new moms in the US return to work within 2 weeks of giving birth; and

WHEREAS, according the Center for Disease Control, between 2000 and 2014, while other industrialized nations have successfully improved their birth outcomes, in the U.S., there has been a 26.6% increase in birth related deaths and half of those birth related deaths occurred within the first 42 days after birth; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities in pregnancy outcomes are historical and persist in California and Black women are almost 4 times more likely to die in childbirth compared to white women regardless of economic status; and

WHEREAS, for every birth related death there are also 60-70 birthing people who suffer serious complications which can result in long term and life altering health changes; and

WHEREAS, birthing people see their health care providers monthly in the beginning of pregnancy and weekly towards the end of pregnancy, new parents may sometimes only have one postpartum visit after birth; and

WHEREAS, postpartum care is a critical period for new parents and their children and proper attention can insure well-being and long term positive health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, increased public awareness, education and research are the key to better health outcomes for birthing people and their postpartum care; and

WHEREAS, postpartum justice is the set of values forming the foundation of postpartum care that is fair and equitable and is free of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and a healthcare system that is based on profit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby recognizes May 19th as Postpartum Justice Day; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Clerk shall communicate this resolution to the Governor, to the President Pro Tempore of the California Senate, and the Speaker of the California Assembly, and to the regional California Congressional delegation and Senators.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California

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