

**P R O C L A M A T I O N**  
**BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK**

**APRIL 11 – 17, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, Black Maternal Health Week is an important initiative aimed at raising awareness about the maternal health disparities faced by Black women, advocating for equitable healthcare access, and addressing the root causes of these inequities, such as systemic racism, socioeconomic factors, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women in the United States are disproportionately affected by pregnancy-related complications, including higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, and have long faced disparities in maternal care, leading to a public health crisis that demands urgent attention and action; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Maternal Health Week, which takes place from April 11 to 17 each year, serves as a vital platform to amplify the voices of Black women and communities, elevate policy discussions, educate the public on the critical issues related to Black maternal health, and advocate for meaningful systemic changes to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for Black Maternal Health Week 2025 is “Healing Legacies: Strengthening Black Maternal Health Through Collective Action and Advocacy,” focusing on the importance of addressing the historical and intergenerational impacts on Black maternal health and the power of collective action and advocacy in creating long-lasting, positive change; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Maternal Health Week offers an opportunity for individuals, organizations, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to unite in solidarity with Black communities, supporting efforts to strengthen Black maternal health through advocacy, education, and action; and

**WHEREAS**, the recognition of Black Maternal Health Week serves as a powerful reminder that the health and wellbeing of Black mothers should be prioritized, and that collaborative efforts across all sectors are essential to ensure that Black women have access to safe, quality, and culturally competent care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period; and

**WHEREAS**, the recognition of Black Maternal Health Week presents an opportunity for individuals, organizations, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to come together to challenge and dismantle the structural and institutional barriers that negatively impact the maternal health of Black women, and to work collaboratively to create a more equitable healthcare system for all;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim April 11 - 17, 2025, as **Black Maternal Health Week** in Oak Park, IL, and I urge all citizens to join in this effort by raising awareness, engaging in community activities, advocating for policy reform, and supporting Black women in their pursuit of a healthier and safer maternity experience.

**DATED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

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Vicki Scaman, Village President

**ATTEST**

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Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk