

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, ENRIQUE PEPEN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA, AND WEBER



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS BABY SAFETY MONTH TO PROMOTE INFANT SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION IN BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** September is nationally recognized as Baby Safety Month, an annual campaign promoting the safety and well-being of infants by providing parents and caregivers with resources to prevent injury; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In 2022, there were approximately 3,700 sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID) in the United States, including deaths from SIDS, unknown causes, and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed which underscores the need for safe sleeping practices, proper crib safety, and educating caregivers; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Rates of SUID increased by nearly 12% between 2020 and 2022, particularly among Black, Native American, and Pacific Islander infants, pointing to ongoing racial inequities in infant health and safety; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Correctly installed car seats save lives: according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about 46% of car seats are improperly installed in the United States, increasing risk of injury or death in crashes; and locally, Boston's Public Health Commission estimates that nearly 9 out of 10 car seats in resident vehicles are misused or improperly installed; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), in collaboration with partners such as Boston Children's Hospital, Boston Medical Center, and community organizations, provides free or low-cost car seat inspections, installations, and education to ensure families have access to resources that reduce preventable injuries and save infant lives; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Ensuring the safety of infants extends beyond private homes to include safe public infrastructure (walking routes, bicycling paths), accessible health care, and supportive public policy, which all contribute to healthy childhood development; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Under Massachusetts law, school zones and safety zones are regulated to enforce lower speed limits (20 mph) around recognized schools (K-12) and other vulnerable road uses; however, many childcare centers in Boston are not formally recognized as school zones, even when they serve infants and toddlers during drop-off and pick-up, creating gaps in protections like reduced speed limits,

consistent signage, and enforcement that are critical for preventing traffic-related injuries; *and*

**WHEREAS,** This creates challenges for childcare providers who report difficulty obtaining school-zone status or traffic safety measures, despite caring for very young children in high-traffic areas, making this a pressing public safety issue for Boston families; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Safe Haven law provides a safe legal option for parents to surrender newborns without fear of prosecution, yet public awareness remains limited about all lawful, safe options for families in crisis; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council hereby declares September as Baby Safety Month in the City of Boston and calls upon all residents, organizations, and businesses to work together to protect the safety and welfare of the city's youngest citizens by promoting safe sleep, proper car seat usage, injury prevention, and community support resources

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