

## **NEW JERSEY'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MATERNAL WELLNESS DAY**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is committed to the health and well-being of the women and families in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to establish a Maternal Health Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, on this third annual Maternal Health Awareness Day, the Borough of New Milford supports the efforts and initiatives of State of New Jersey and its various partners and recognizes that every woman deserves quality, affordable, and culturally respectful maternal health care and reaffirms a statewide commitment to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and racial health disparities among New Jersey women; and

**WHEREAS**, we are focused on improving maternal health outcomes, women's experiences at childbirth, and critical postpartum care, especially for women of color; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the America's Health Rankings Annual Report, New Jersey ranked 45th in the country for maternal mortality within 42 days of pregnancy; and

**WHEREAS**, over half of the negative maternal outcomes and deaths in New Jersey are preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, collaborative action is needed among public health leaders, government agencies, health systems, clinicians, and elected officials to address this problem; and

**WHEREAS**, many state agencies, in partnership with community-based organizations, have a role in helping to reduce maternal mortality and improve outcomes, including the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Banking and Insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, leaders and providers in New Jersey's 49 hospitals with Labor and Delivery units, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other health services professions are focused on providing quality maternal health care; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to improve public and professional awareness of the issues related to maternal health and mortality, and promote the various promising efforts to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities, it is both reasonable and appropriate to recognize the third annual "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State and in the Borough of New Milford and to annually invite community members and health care professionals, on this day, to participate in appropriate activities relating to maternal health, safety, and mortality;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Michael Putrino on behalf of Phil Murphy, Governor of the Great State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

**JANUARY 23, 2020**

**MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**

In New Milford and encourage public officials, residents and businesses to honor this observance with appropriate activities and programs.