

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2023 –

WHEREAS, infant nutrition is considered a public health issue and critically important during health and natural emergencies, like the COVID-19 pandemic, the nutrients exclusive to human milk cannot be manufactured, breastfeeding promotes overall health, growth, and development, and helps to prevent infections, as well as asthma, obesity, diabetes and other chronic illnesses in childhood and adulthood; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding benefits a mother's postpartum recovery and decreases the risk of ovarian and uterine cancers, as well as anemia, diabetes, heart disease and osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, "the Surgeon General's call to Action to Support Breastfeeding" highlights that, if 90 percent of U.S. babies were breastfed exclusively for six months, the nation would save an estimated \$13 billion per year in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is recognized by the Florida Department of Health, Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Tampa Bay and, Florida West Coast Breastfeeding Taskforce, and major medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of WIC Directors, the Office of Women's Health, UNICEF, La Leche League, World Health Organization, among others, as the healthiest method of infant feeding; and

WHEREAS, World Breastfeeding Week is recognized during the first week of August and is a global initiative to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and its important long-term effects on the growth and development of infants, with the 2023 theme being, "**Enabling breastfeeding: making a difference for working parents;**" and

WHEREAS, Black Breastfeeding Week is recognized during the last week of August, drawing focus to the gaping racial disparity in breastfeeding rates and the unique cultural barriers among Black women, which is linked to high Black infant mortality rate and of diet-related disease, Black Breastfeeding Week also aims to promote diversify in the lactation field and reduce first food deserts in Black communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida laws permit mothers to breastfeed in any location, public or private, irrespective of whether the nipple of the breasts are covered during or incidental to the breastfeeding and specify that the act of breastfeeding shall not be considered public indecency; and

WHEREAS, women with children are valued members of the U.S. labor force, accommodations for breastfeeding at work, protected under the law, benefit not only women and children, but employers as there are cost savings in terms of health care due to less illness among breastfed children, higher morale, and a stronger sense of loyalty among parental employees; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health in Citrus, Pasco and Hernando Counties, Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Tampa Bay and Florida West Coast Breastfeeding Taskforces recognizes it is vital for families to make informed choices about the health and care of infants and supports increased efforts by hospital staff, providers, employers, and all Floridians to not only encourage, but to provide tangible support for breastfeeding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim August 2023 as **BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH** in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners encourage all citizens to join in this worthy observance and promote public awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 8th day of August 2023, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

John Allocco
Chairman

Jerry Campbell
Commissioner

Elizabeth Narverud
Vice Chairman

Brian Hawkins
Commissioner

Steve Champion
Second Vice Chairman