

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

of

BREASTFEEDING

WHEREAS, families are a priority in the County of Buncombe and part of helping them thrive is ensuring they receive community support to develop and sustain healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy Of Pediatrics, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Academy of Family Physicians and other leading health organizations, breastfeeding is the optimal food for infants; and

WHEREAS, a mother's decision to breastfeed her baby should be supported by her family and community; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding, is associated with lower rates of childhood illness, such as obesity, diabetes, and infectious diseases, as well as less maternal breast and ovarian cancers and diabetes and a faster recovery from childbirth as compared to formula feeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding promotes maternal-infant bonding and benefits the entire family; and is associated with lifelong health and development;

WHEREAS, collaborating with healthcare providers and community resources, can positively impact breastfeeding success; and

WHEREAS, our community is proud to have a hospital (Mission Hospital) with Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative designation; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding protects the environment which will preserve the beauty of the mountains and waterways; and

WHEREAS, a breastfeeding friendly community encourages families of all races and ethnicities to continue breastfeeding by providing a supportive and welcoming environment;

WHEREAS, recognizing the persistent inequities in our community's birth outcomes, where African American babies in Buncombe County are nearly 4 times as likely to die in the first year of life as White babies, a breast feeding friendly community could be an antidote to tragedy and strategy towards advancing equitable birth outcomes in Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, in his proclamation supporting the 2018 World Breastfeeding Week, the Governor of the State of North Carolina has recognized that in a world filled with inequality, crises, and poverty, breastfeeding is the foundation of lifelong good health for babies and mothers; and

WHEREAS, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action is dedicated to the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide, with the annual international observance of World Breast Feeding August 1-7; and

NOW, THEREFORE, on this day of July 16, 2019, and henceforth, we, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, declare the County of Buncombe to be a

Breastfeeding Family Friendly Community

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE OF COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: 
BROWNIE NEWMAN
CHAIRMAN

