

RESOLUTION NUMBER 76

Whereas, The Save the Children organization recently reported that the United States ranks near the bottom among modern nations in regards to infant mortality; and

Whereas, infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before it reaches its first birthday; and

Whereas, the United States ranks 28th among industrialized nations in the rate of infant mortality; and

Whereas, in the United States, infant mortality increased in 2002, for the first time in more than 4 decades, to the rate of 7 deaths per 1,000 live births; and

Whereas, the recent increase is a significant and troubling public health issue, especially for African American families, Native American families, and Hispanic families; and

Whereas, the infant mortality rate among African American women is more than double that of Caucasian women, according to a report produced by the National Healthy Start Association; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has designated 2010, as the year by which certain objectives should be met with respect to the health status of the people of the United States; and

Whereas, it is imperative in the City of St. Louis that the issue of infant mortality be publicly discussed and that a comprehensive action plan be developed to address the many health care, cultural and economic factors which contribute to this ;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we direct the Committee on Health and Human Services to convene a hearing for the purpose of examining the issue of infant mortality in the City of St. Louis and we further direct the committee to include in such discussion the Director of Health for the City of St. Louis and all other interested parties deemed appropriate by the chairman of such committee.

Introduced on the 21st day of July, 2006 by:

Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Bennice Jones-King, Alderwoman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 21st day of July, 2005 as attested:

Patrick J. Connaghan
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

James F. Shrewsbury
President, Board of Aldermen