CHATHAM COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Karen Howard, Chair
Katie Kenlan, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Franklin Gomez Flores
Amanda Robertson

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Honoring National Breastfeeding Month and World Breastfeeding Week

WHEREAS, families are a priority in Chatham County, and part of helping families to thrive is ensuring that they receive community support to develop and sustain healthy lifestyles, and a parent's decision to breastfeed or provide human milk is supported by their family, workplace, and the community; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Dietetic Association, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Academy of Family Physicians, World Health Organization, and other leading health organizations, human milk is the optimal food for infants; and

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

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

WHEREAS, our healthcare leadership recognizes that breastfeeding is a health equity concern and is dedicated to supporting optimal infant feeding in our community. Piedmont Health Services received the NC Breastfeeding Coalition Family Friendly Employer and Community Partner Awards, and healthcare providers and clinics in our community support a family's desire to start and continue to breastfeed and feed human milk; and

WHEREAS, the active collaboration between health systems and community lactation advocates positively impacts breastfeeding success and decreases strain on local health systems by reducing medical expenses related to infant illnesses and maternal medical complications; and

WHEREAS, assisting local businesses and organizations to welcome chest/breastfeeding families to provide human milk in all the places that families connect (e.g., grow, learn, play, shop, dine) and support lactating employees can promote best practices in human milk feeding, and positively support families in reaching their infant feeding goals, as well as ensure employee retention, fewer missed days of work, and increased workplace productivity; and

WHEREAS, the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes* recognizes that the inappropriate and unnecessary marketing and distribution of breast-milk substitutes by healthcare facilities and businesses can impact the infant feeding practices of families, and our community partners affirm their commitment to supporting families to make informed infant feeding decisions; and

WHEREAS, encouraging our local education systems to include breastfeeding and human milk feeding curricula at all levels normalizes lactation, and collaborating on community resources and building community awareness can positively impact human milk feeding success; and

WHEREAS, our community is proud to have a maternity care center with a level I nursery at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chatham Hospital which is pursuing Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative designation; and

WHEREAS, by providing a supportive and welcoming environment, a breastfeeding friendly community encourages families of all races, ethnicities, and family structures to initiate and continue optimal infant feeding; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners proclaimed Chatham County to be a "Breastfeeding Friendly Community" in 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims August as National Breastfeeding Month, and August 1-7 as World Breastfeeding Week in Chatham County each year and hereby urges all residents and community institutions to support and encourage human milk feeding.

Adopted, this the 21st day of July 2025.

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Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST:

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Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board