

Proclamation

WHEREAS, diaper need is the condition of not having a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy. It can adversely affect the health and well-being of babies, toddlers, and their families. National surveys and research studies report that one in three families struggles with diaper need, and 48 percent of families' delay changing a diaper to extend the available supply; and

WHEREAS, infants and toddlers go through six (6) to twelve (12) diapers each day during the two to three years they wear diapers. Purchasing enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy can consume 14 percent of a low-wage family's post-tax income, making it difficult to provide the necessary supply; and

WHEREAS, a daily or weekly supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for babies and toddlers to participate in childcare programs and quality early-education programs that enable children to thrive and parents to work. The state legislature recently passed legislation to exempt diapers from sales tax in Florida for one year; and

WHEREAS, many parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of four days of work each month due to an insufficient supply of diapers. Parents missing work due to diaper need hinders their ability to provide for their family financially, and creates workforce problems for small businesses, which hurts the local economy; and

WHEREAS, without enough diapers, babies and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention resulting in medical costs, and parents may be prevented from accessing child care needed to go to work or school, thereby destabilizing the family's economic prospects and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the people of Margate recognize that diaper need is a public health issue, and addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's families and communities and improved health for children, thus ensuring all children and families have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Margate is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including Miami Diaper Bank that recognize the importance of diapers by ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels; and

WHEREAS, Miami Diaper Bank has become a vital resource for organizations in our community who serve children and families with diaper needs. They connect over 5.2 million diapers and baby essentials to 80,000 children and families who are homeless, in crisis, living in poverty, struggling to secure affordable childcare, in response to emergency need, and when national crisis or natural disaster strikes; and

WHEREAS, through our important work of addressing diaper need, diaper banks play a critical role in supporting families, improving infant health and wellbeing, and advancing our local and state economic growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Antonio V. Arserio, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim September 24 to October 2, 2022, as

NATIONAL DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Margate, and thank the aforementioned diaper banks, their staff, volunteers and donors, for their courageous service during the crisis, and encourage the citizens of Margate to donate generously to Miami Diaper Bank, host diaper drives, and support this organization that collects and distributes diapers to families struggling with diaper needs, so that all of Margate's children and families can thrive and reach their full potential.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be
affixed this 21st day of September 2022.



ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, MAYOR