

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, diaper need, the condition of not having a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy, can adversely affect the health and well-being of babies, toddlers, and their families; and

WHEREAS, 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 to 12 diapers each day during the two to three years they wear diapers; and

WHEREAS, 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 child care programs and quality early-education programs that enable children to thrive and parents to work; 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;

WHEREAS, parents missing work due to diaper need hinders their ability to provide for their family financially, creates workforce problems for small businesses, and 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 Seattle 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, Seattle is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including Westside Baby that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels; and

WHEREAS, diaper banks and the staff and volunteers who run them are community leaders and logistics experts who ensure a stable and sustainable supply of basic necessities for members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, through their 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, THE MAYOR AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM*

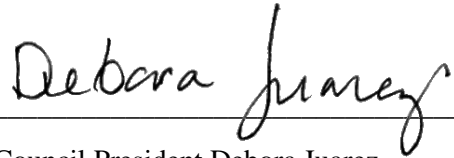
*SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2022, TO BE*

## **Diaper Need Awareness Week**

in the City of Seattle, thank the dedicated diaper banks, their staff, volunteers and donors, for their courageous service during the crisis, and encourage the residents of Seattle to donate generously to diaper banks, diaper drives, and support those organizations that collect and distribute diapers to families struggling with diaper need, so that all of Seattle's children and families can thrive and reach their full potential.



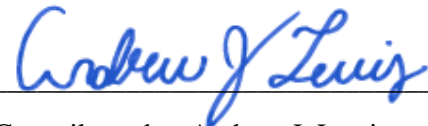
Mayor Bruce A. Harrell



Council President Debora Juarez



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



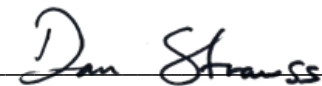
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Dan Strauss