

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, *Cribs for Kids*, an Allegheny County-based infant safe-sleep nonprofit organization that has saved the lives of countless babies, is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event on December 12, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, Judith Bannon, then the Executive Director of Sudden Infant Death Services of PA, noticed that most sudden infant deaths were occurring on couches or in chairs and adult beds, where babies are at risk; the deaths also were taking place in predominately lower-income households; so, Ms. Bannon created *Cribs for Kids* and made its mission to educate parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep habits for their babies and to offer cribs to families who otherwise couldn't afford a safe place for their babies to sleep; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 20 years, *Cribs for Kids* has evolved from a local nonprofit with a few members to a national organization with more than 1,100 partners; it has provided over 500,000 cribs to families in need, including hundreds each year to residents in Allegheny County; additionally, it has developed and implemented the National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program, Management Care Organization Prenatal Incentive Program, National Public Safety Initiative, Safe Sleep Ambassador Program, and Safe Sleep Academy website; and

**WHEREAS**, *Cribs for Kids* also advocates for state and federal policies that help increase research into infant sleep-related deaths and improve safe sleep prevention efforts; the organization was instrumental in the passage of Pennsylvania Act 73 of 2010, which mandates that every mother be given infant safe sleep education before leaving a birthing hospital in the commonwealth; other states then followed Pennsylvania's lead by passing similar legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are about 3,500 sleep-related deaths among U.S. babies each year, including from sudden infant death syndrome, accidental suffocation, and unknown causes; a vast majority of those babies die in unsafe sleeping environments; we are therefore profoundly grateful to *Cribs for Kids* for its commitment to preventing those tragic deaths and for its immensely positive impact on families in need in this region and beyond.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim December 12, 2018 as "Cribs for Kids Day" in Allegheny County. We congratulate the organization on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wish it many more successful years to come.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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RICH FITZGERALD