

City of LaBelle Proclamation

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

***WHEREAS**, national surveys and research studies report that nearly one in two families struggles with diaper need, and 48 percent of families delay changing a diaper to extend the available 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 five days of work each month due to an insufficient supply of diapers; 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 LaBelle 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**, LaBelle is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including The South West Florida Regional Diaper Bank that recognizes the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels; 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; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor of the City of LaBelle, and on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim the week of September 15th through September 21st, 2025 as:*

"NATIONAL DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK"

in the City of LaBelle, thank the aforementioned diaper banks, their staff, volunteers and donors, for their courageous service during the crisis, and encourage the citizens of LaBelle 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 LaBelle children and families can thrive and reach their full potential.

***PROCLAIMED** this 11th Day of September, 2025.*

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor
City of LaBelle