



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor
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Mayor Urges Community's Help to Reduce Infant Deaths

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., is calling on faith-based organizations and community groups to help highlight the alarming number of infant deaths in Shelby County.

"It's vital we help save the lives of babies, especially those less than a year old. Shelby County has one of the highest infant death rates in the country," said Mayor Luttrell.

During September, Mayor Luttrell will be joining staff from the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth to promote *"Infant Mortality Awareness Month,"* part of a nation-wide effort to reduce infant deaths.

So far this year, 63 babies less than a year old have died in Shelby County. The area with the highest number of deaths is Frayser, with 22 deaths. The death rates for 2010 have not been released, but in 2009, 187 infants died in Shelby County. **"In many cases, the young mothers did not receive or have knowledge of health services designed to help them and their babies,"** added Mayor Luttrell.

A news conference about *Infant Mortality Awareness Month* will be held this Thursday, **September 1st, at Union Grove Baptist Church-James E. Smith Resource Center, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, at 2:30 p.m.** Following the news conference, staff with the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth will go door-to-door with community volunteers to leave awareness brochures throughout the Frayser area.

Here are other events that will promote *Infant Mortality Awareness Month*:

- September 15th, Frayser Exchange Club, Sarah Lee's Kitchen, 4040 North Watkins, 11:45 a.m.
- September 17th, Impact Baptist Church Health Fair, 3759 North Watkins, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- September 21st, Rangeline Neighborhood Community Development Corporation, James E. Smith Resource Center, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Noon.
- September 24th, Sisters in Motion 5K Run, Overton Park, 9 a.m.
- September 25th, "Celebrate Life-Purple Sunday," Greater Community Temple Church, 5151 Winchester, 11 a.m.
- September 29th, Premier of "BIRTH DAYS: United to Fight Against Infant Mortality," Shelby County Commission Chambers, lobby of the Shelby County Administration Building, 160 North Main, 9:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Nicole Gates at the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth at **(901) 229-4190**.

(End of News Release)