



Office of the Mayor City of Westfield Proclamation

WHEREAS Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy; and

WHEREAS each year there are approximately 500 cases of SUDC in the United States – including more than 200 younger children between the ages of 1 and 4 – who die without any clear cause or explanation; and

WHEREAS while less common than sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, SUDC is an important health concern deserving of increased public awareness and research; and

WHEREAS SUDC is the fifth leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and

WHEREAS there currently is no known way to predict or prevent SUDC as its causes are unknown; and

WHEREAS continued research and awareness efforts are vital to uncovering the causes of SUDC and identifying ways to prevent these tragic losses in the future; and

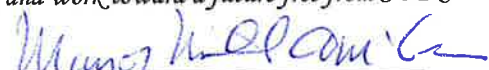
WHEREAS we recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations such as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, medicolegal death investigators, and volunteers who are working to better understand the causes of SUDC, improve the health of infants and children, and provide much-needed hope and support for those families grieving the heartbreaking sudden, unexplained death of a child; and

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the memory of the young lives that ended too soon, show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones devastated by their loss, increase public awareness of SUDC, and the need for ongoing research efforts in search for answers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael A. McCabe, mayor of the City of Westfield of Hampden County, of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

in Westfield, Massachusetts, encouraging all citizens to honor the memories of the children gone too soon, support affected families, and join in efforts to raise awareness, advance research, and work toward a future free from SUDC.


Mayor Michael A. McCabe