



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Sandra J. Rotar
Health Operations Administrator



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Mayor Barrett, Health Officials to Welcome Faith Leaders to Strong Baby Educational Breakfast

Annual collaboration with Ascension Columbia St. Mary's, faith leaders to celebrate Strong Baby Sanctuary locations, encourage citywide message to prevent infant deaths

MILWAUKEE – On Wednesday, October 4, Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker will partner with Ascension Columbia St. Mary's to welcome local faith leaders and health experts for an educational breakfast around infant mortality prior to the upcoming Strong Baby Sabbath, set for Sunday, October 8.

During the luncheon, 33 churches will be celebrated for becoming Strong Baby Sanctuary locations, where pregnant women and new families can find referrals to an existing network of community resources or take part in church or communitywide programs that can lower stress, support wellness, and reduce Milwaukee's most preventable causes of infant deaths: Premature births and unsafe sleeping environments. The Strong Baby Sanctuary program began in 2015, and has grown from an initial 10 churches.

The effort supports the goal of reducing Milwaukee's overall infant mortality rate by 10 percent and the African-American infant mortality rate by 15 percent.

- WHAT:** Strong Baby Sabbath Breakfast for Faith Leaders
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 4
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Speakers to begin at 8:45 a.m.
- WHERE:** Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Garden Café
2301 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee
- WHO:** Mayor Tom Barrett
Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker
Bill Solberg, Ascension Columbia St. Mary's
Dr. Camille Garrison, Ascension Columbia St. Mary's
*Additional interviews available on-site

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