

**PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
MARCH 8, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, The history of **International Women's Day (IWD)**, though comparatively short is as bold and brilliant as its founders themselves. Long before the Feminist Movement of the 1960s, International Women's Day's genesis goes back to February 28, 1909 in New York with a prophetic focus on women's rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Known originally as "**National Woman's Day**," it was first proposed by Theresa Malkiel and loosely based on the urban legend commemorating a protest by women garment workers in New York City, on March 8, 1857. One hundred women delegates from 17 countries agreed with the suggestion as a means to continue promoting the rights of women, including suffrage - the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 19, 1911, **International Women's Day** was officially marked for the first time. More than one million people celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Women demanded the right to vote, to fight against sex discrimination in the workplace, and to hold public office; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1913, **International Women's Day** was recognized in Russia for the first time, where it catapulted to become part of what led to the Russian Revolution in 1917. In 1922, it reached China where March 8 was declared an office "half-day of work" for women in 1949; and

**WHEREAS**, The demand for women's rights continued to grow, gain support, and shine a much-needed light on the poor conditions under which too many women continued to live. In 1967, the notion of women's rights was taken up by the next generation of feminists who called for equal pay, equal economic opportunity, equal legal rights, reproductive rights, subsidized child care and the prevention of violence against women; and

**WHEREAS**, The United Nations began celebrating **International Women's Day** in 1975, which was declared "International Women's Year." In 1977, the United Nations invited members to proclaim March 8th as the *UN Day for Women's Rights and World Peace* and International Women's Day continues to be celebrated worldwide each year on March 8;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Troy City Council recognizes the historical significance and importance of **International Women's Day**; and recognizes and applauds the contributions of so many courageous women – from many nations - throughout the past 100+ years. We celebrate the advancement of women's rights in all areas of life, with the acknowledgment there is still much progress to be made and work to be done because in many parts of the world women still live in fear and have fewer rights than imaginable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Troy City Council recognizes the strength of every woman and believe that together we can – WE WILL – fulfill the century-old vision of the **International Women's Day** Founders to stand firmly together as we do all we can to create a better, more peaceful world.

**Presented this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021**