

Proclamation

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, the theme for Women's History Month in March 2025, as established by the National Women's History Alliance, is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations – both past and present; and,

WHEREAS, the theme of the United Nations Observance of International Women's Day on March 8, 2025, is "Accelerate Action," which "emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres;" and,

WHEREAS, the history of International Women's Day and Women's History Month emerged from the labor and antiwar movements of the early 20th century, with an emphasis on women's suffrage and workers' rights that later expanded to include equal pay and other fair labor practices, sexual and reproductive rights, and the prevention of gender-based violence; and,

WHEREAS, International Women's Day and Women's History Month offer a reminder that all attempts to subjugate women, erode women's rights, and promote and defend gender-based violence—whether in our homes, our workplaces, or our legislatures—must be resisted; and,

WHEREAS, these observances also offer an opportunity to celebrate the contributions that women of every race, class, ethnic background, and gender identity have made to the social, cultural, and economic life of the community; and,

WHEREAS, women are serving in leadership roles throughout the Town of Carrboro organization, including Town Manager Patrice Toney, Assistant Town Manager Marie Parker, and several department heads. Town Manager Toney is the first African American woman to serve as Town Manager, stepping into the position in May 2024 after Marie Parker served as the Interim Town Manager in 2023. Since the election of Alderman Mary Riggsbee in 1971 and Mayor Ruth West in 1975, the people of Carrboro have been proudly electing women to local office, including currently serving Mayor Barbara Foushee and Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell; and,

WHEREAS, a great woman poet named Nikki Giovanni once said, "Deal with yourself as an individual worthy of respect, and make everyone else deal with you the same way."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 8, 2025, to be International Women's Day in Carrboro and the month of March 2025 to be Women's History Month in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to participate in Women's History Month events and to learn about and celebrate the lives, history, and contributions of women during this month and throughout the year.

This the 4th day of March, 2025.


Barbara M. Foushee

