

Proclamation

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, the theme for Women's History Month in March 2026, as established by the National Women's History Alliance, is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future". This theme honors women who are rebuilding systems across environmental, economic, and social sectors to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience and to create a more equitable and inclusive future; and,

WHEREAS, The United Nations observance of International Women's Day 2026, held on March 8th, centers on the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls". This campaign calls for dismantling barriers to equal justice and addressing legal gaps that disproportionately disadvantage women worldwide. The 2026 event aligns with the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), which focuses on strengthening access to justice, and includes high-level discussions on March 9 and,

WHEREAS, the history of International Women's Day and Women's History Month emerged from the labor and anti-war 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 us 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,

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, 2026, to be International Women's Day in Carrboro and the month of March 2026 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 1st day of March, 2026.


Barbara M. Foushee

