

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 2017

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - MARCH 2017

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways and have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1980, the National Women's History Project is a non-profit educational organization committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse and significant historical accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs and led the drive to write women back into history by recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life; and

WHEREAS, The National Women's History Month 2017 Theme is "**Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business**" – remembering women who have successfully challenged the role of women in both business and the paid labor force, women have always worked, but often their work has been undervalued and unpaid, women who represent many diverse backgrounds and made their marks in different fields, women whose work and influence spans three centuries of America's history, these women all successfully challenged the social and legal structures that have kept women's labor underappreciated and underpaid, facing stark inequalities in the workplace (lower wages, poor working conditions, and limited opportunities), they fought to make the workplace a less hostile environment for women, they succeeded in expanding women's participation in commerce and their power in the paid labor force, and as labor and business leaders and innovators, they defied the social mores of their times by demonstrating women's ability to create organizations and establish their own businesses that paved the way for better working conditions and wages for themselves and other women, they proved that women could succeed in every field, and each in her own way demonstrated that women in business and labor can and should be considered the norm, most importantly, they continue to pave the way for generations of women to follow; and

WHEREAS, When women sought to question inequalities in their own lives, they turned to history to understand that if a woman's role could be socially constructed within a specific historical context, rather than natural and universal, then women could argue that it was open to change; and

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the nation's volunteer labor force; American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and other movements, especially the peace movement, which created a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, Women's history is now far more embedded in the curriculum of higher education than half a century ago, the number of professors in women's history has increased and it remains important to promote research into women's history, both inside academia and in the wider community; and

WHEREAS, Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American History:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby recognizes March as **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**, thanks all the women locally and nationally who have made a mark on our City, State and Country's culture, government and society.