

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

March 15, 2018

### RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - MARCH 2018

**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 2018 Theme is "*Nevertheless She Persisted*" – "*Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*", it is an opportunity to honor women who have shaped our country's history and its future through their tireless commitment to ending discrimination against women and girls, through this theme we celebrate women fighting to dismantle the structural, cultural and legal forms of discrimination that have plagued American women for far too long, we celebrate women fighting not only against sexism, but also against the many intersecting forms of discrimination faced by American women, *Nevertheless She Persisted* is a phrase born in February 2017, when Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, was silenced during Senator Jeff Sessions' confirmation hearing for Attorney General, at the time Senator Warren was reading an opposition letter penned by Coretta Scott King (a past NWHP honoree) in 1986, referring to the incident, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY, later said "Senator Warren was giving a lengthy speech, she appeared to violate the rule, she was warned, she was given an explanation, *Nevertheless She Persisted*", feminists immediately adopted the phrase in hashtags and memes to refer to any strong woman who refused to be silenced, fighting all forms of discrimination against women takes persistence in order to bring positive change to the lives of diverse American women; 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.