



## City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

**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 served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

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

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 National Women's History theme, "**Nevertheless She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight Against All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**" presents the opportunity to honor women who have shaped America's history and its future through their tireless commitment to ending discrimination against women and girls;

**WHEREAS**, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities;

**WHEREAS**, now, more than ever, there's a strong call-to-action to press forward and progress gender parity. There's a strong call to **#PressforProgress** motivating and uniting friends, colleagues and whole communities to think, act and be gender inclusive; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, International Women's Day comes on the heels of unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. Sexual harassment, violence and discrimination against women has captured headlines and public discourse, propelled by a rising determination for change.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Debbie Bertlin, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim

March 2018 as

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

and March 8, 2018 as

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

in the City of Mercer Island and urge all Islanders take the opportunity to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential.

**APPROVED**, this 6th day of March 2018

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Mayor Debbie Bertlin