

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH | 2023

WHEREAS, Women's History Month, we celebrate the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity in our Nation. We also reaffirm our commitment to advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls in the United States and around the world. We are mindful that we are building on the legacy of both recognized trailblazers and unsung heroines who have guided the course of American history and continue to shape its future; and

WHEREAS, the full participation of women is a foundational tenet of democracy. Women —often women of color — have been on the frontlines, fighting for and securing equal rights and opportunity throughout our country's history as abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragists, and labor activists. Women continue to lead as advocates for reproductive rights, champions of racial justice, and LGBTQI+ equality; and

WHEREAS, but despite significant progress, women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to full and equal participation in our economy and society. Last year, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, stripping away a constitutional right from the American people and the ability of millions of women to make decisions about their own bodies, putting their health and lives at risk. Disparities persist in economic security, health care, and caregiving responsibilities, especially for women and girls of color. Those who perform critical work, including those who care for our children and our families, are too often overlooked, underpaid, and undervalued; and

WHEREAS, this month, as we continue our work to advance gender equity and equality, let us celebrate the contributions of women throughout our history and honor the stories that have too often gone untold. Let us recognize that fundamental freedoms are interconnected: when opportunities for women are withheld, we all suffer; and when women's lives are improved, we all gain.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

“WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH”

in Durham County, North Carolina. Throughout history, women have opened the doors of opportunity for subsequent generations of dreamers and doers. As community leaders, educators, doctors, scientists, childcare providers, and more, women power our economy and lead our Nation and County. I call upon residents of Durham to observe this month and to celebrate women this day and all days.

This 13th day of March 2023.

Brenda Howerton, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

