

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1910, Washington became the fifth state to enact women's suffrage, the success of which helped inspire the campaign that culminated in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, when women won the right to vote nationally; and

WHEREAS, Native American and immigrant Asian women, as well as women who did not read or write English, were specifically excluded from Washington's 1910 suffrage act and continued to fight for equal suffrage; and

WHEREAS, since 1914, March 8th has been recognized as International Women's Day, and since 1987, March has been designated National Women's History Month in the United States; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1998, King County has observed March as Women's History Month in recognition of the role women have played in the growth and development of our economy, government, cultural and artistic sphere, and many other areas of accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, from the inception of the King County Council with the election of Councilmember Bernice Stern in 1969 and the 1973 election of Councilmember Ruby Chow as the first Asian American and woman of color on the Council, 15 women from all over our county have represented the people of King County on the Council; and

WHEREAS, women constitute a majority of King County's population and a significant portion of the labor force, making countless contributions to our community across every facet of life, and many women are committed to their dual roles as professional women and mothers; and

WHEREAS, the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately affected women, with over 2 million women leaving the labor force in 2020, according to the National Women's Law Center; and

WHEREAS, challenges related to COVID-19 are continuing to impact women and an equitable recovery must take into account the unique needs of women; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and women of color have historically encountered and continue to face additional barriers to equality, and we must strive to extend equal rights to all women; and

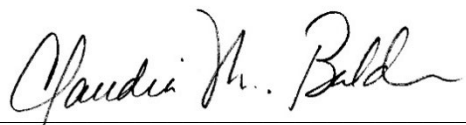
WHEREAS, women of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, and socioeconomic background continue to make historic contributions to the growth and strength of King County, Washington State, our nation, and the global community;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim March 2022 as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in King County, to recognize and celebrate the contributions women have made to our nation's history and will make to its future.

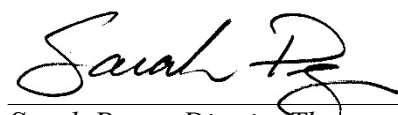
DATED this first day of March, 2022



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair




Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



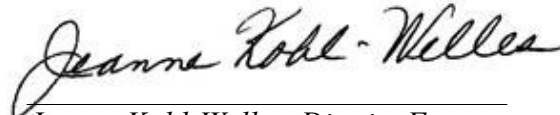
Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



Joe McDermott, District Eight



Girmay Zahiray, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine