Whereas: "Women's History Month" celebrates the vital contributions of women to our

society and recognizes specific achievements women have made over the

course of history in a variety of fields; and

Whereas: Women's History Month began as "Women's History Week" in 1981 when

Congress authorized and requested the week to be proclaimed beginning March

7, 1982; and

Whereas: In countless recorded and unrecorded ways, American women of every race,

class and ethnic background have made historic impacts on the growth and

strength of our nation, state and local communities; and

Whereas: Women, including women of color and immigrant women, have been leaders

not only in securing their rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also as prominent figures in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other efforts, including the

peace movement, which strives to create a more just society for all; and

Whereas: We must reflect on the significant burdens women and girls continue to bear

today, particularly women of color and immigrant women – including unequal wages, disproportionate caregiving responsibilities, lack of access to healthcare and loss of employment, while acknowledging that much more needs to be

done to overcome these barriers; and

Whereas: Equity, access, inclusion and opportunity for all people are values at the core of

the City of Bellevue's community vision and the ongoing work of the Diversity

Advantage Plan; and

Whereas: Recognizing the importance of women's contributions helps ensure these efforts

will not be overlooked in the literature, teaching and study of American history.

**Now, therefore, I,** Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as:

Women's History Month

And call upon all Bellevue residents to observe this month with programs, ceremonies and activities.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor City of Bellevue