

PROCLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT WORLDWIDE, WOMEN CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE EQUALLY TO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT; AND

WHEREAS, WE HAVE MUCH TO CELEBRATE TODAY, BUT PROGRESS TOWARDS GENDER PARITY HAS SLOWED OR REVERSED IN THE DOMAINS OF WORKFORCE EQUITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH; AND

WHEREAS, THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM PREDICTED IN 2014 THAT IT WOULD TAKE UNTIL 2095 TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL GENDER PARITY. THEN ONE YEAR LATER IN 2015, THEY ESTIMATED THAT A SLOWDOWN IN THE ALREADY GLACIAL PACE OF PROGRESS MEANT THE GENDER GAP WOULDN'T CLOSE ENTIRELY UNTIL 2133; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY DEVELOPED COUNTRY WITHOUT A PAID FAMILY LEAVE POLICY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LARGEST FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE CURRENT GENDER WAGE GAP, ECONOMIC SECURITY OF FAMILIES, PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT, AND LIFETIME EARNINGS OF WOMEN; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMBINATION OF FAIR PAY EQUITY POLICIES, TWELVE WEEKS OF PAID FAMILY LEAVE, AND AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATED TO NEARLY CLOSE THE GENDER WAGE GAP AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE WOMEN'S LIFETIME EARNINGS. THESE POLICIES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT IMPOSING UNDUE COSTS OR HARDSHIP IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS; AND

WHEREAS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN ROLLED BACK SUBSTANTIALLY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, AND HERE IN SEATTLE MANY WORRYING OUTCOMES SUCH AS TEEN PREGNANCY RATES IN SOUTH SEATTLE AND SOARING COSTS OF CHILDBIRTH COUPLED WITH A LACK OF PREGNANCY WORKPLACE ACCOMMODATIONS CONTINUE TO HOLD WOMEN BACK AND MUST BE ADDRESSED IN A TIMELY FASHION.

WHEREAS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT WHEN OUTCOMES OF PAY, VIOLENCE, AND ACCESS ARE EVALUATED AGAINST GENDER IDENTITY, WE KNOW THAT TRANSGENDER WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE AND ABUSE, WE MUST COMMIT TO THE ELIMINATION AND PREVENTION OF THESE OCCURRENCES; AND

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WHEREAS, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WAS FOUNDED BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF AMERICA IN 1909 TO COMMEMORATE THE COURAGEOUS STRIKE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

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; AND

WHEREAS, WHILE WE REFLECT WITH PRIDE ON THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE, SEATTLE'S LEADERS WILL REMAIN COMMITTED IN ADVANCING WOMEN'S EQUALITY BY MAKING ACTIONABLE PROGRESS TOWARDS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND REPRODUCTIVE EQUALITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF SEATTLE IS URGING SWIFT AND APPROPRIATE PROGRESS TOWARDS CLOSING THE GENDER PAY GAP, ENSURING WOMEN HAVE THE NECESSARY SUPPORTS TO SUCCEED IN THE WORKFORCE, AND HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR FULL RIGHTS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.

*Now, therefore, The Seattle City Council proclaims:
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 to be International Women's Day*

Council President Bruce A. Harrell



Councilmember Tim Burgess



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember M. Lorena González



Councilmember Rob Johnson



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Debora Juarez