

CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1848, five trailblazing women organized the Seneca Falls Convention and created the Declaration of Sentiments, a platform that called on women to fight for their Constitutionally guaranteed right to equality as U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, At the 1851 Women's Rights Convention, Sojourner Truth delivered one of the most famous women's rights speeches, "Ain't I a Woman?" calling for Black women to be included in women's suffrage; and in 1865, Truth worked at the Freedmen's Village in Arlington Heights; and

WHEREAS, In 1920, Gertrude Crocker, a noted suffragist and treasurer for the National Woman's Party and one of the 12 women who participated in the first ever picket protest outside the White House, moved to Arlington and became active in civic affairs; and

WHEREAS, The fight for women's suffrage lasted more than 72 years, with women from all walks of life demanding the right to voice their opinions at the polls; yet the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 ensured that primarily white women could vote; it would be another 45 years before women of color had the legal protections to vote through the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women of all backgrounds were not only voting, but they were also running for and winning elected office in unprecedented numbers, including the highest office in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Betty Resch, Mayor of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim:

AUGUST 26, 2024

as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in the City of Lake Worth Beach and encourage residents to follow in the footsteps of these great suffragists, female leaders, and civil rights leaders, and to continue to be sentinels for democracy and justice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 20th day of August, 2024.

Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk