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**February 6, 2024**

**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay and Supervisor Smith**  
**Women's History Month 2024**

Members of the Board,

Women's History Month originated as "Women's History Week" in 1982. Since the National Women's History Project petitioned the designation of March as Women's History Month in 1987, we have celebrated the diverse facets of women's identity that enrich and sometimes challenge our experiences. This year's theme, "Women who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion," celebrates women nationwide who are committed to eliminating bias and discrimination still prevailing in our lives, and in our systems, to ensure a more positive future.

Women of diverse backgrounds recognize the inherent injustice of inequality and are committed to advocating for fairness. In alignment with our One Fairfax policy, we acknowledge that a just and inclusive society requires the collective effort of women as integral members of families, civic and community groups, businesses, and legislative bodies, to challenge the status quo and to reevaluate harmful social policies that subtly shape our future. One Fairfax is our declaration of commitment that all residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed.

This year we celebrate the example set by women dedicated to embracing everyone in the collective pursuit of freedom and opportunity. The courage displayed by women advocating for practical goals such as equity, diversity, and inclusion is commendable, particularly in the face of opposition from established forces seeking to misinterpret, exploit, or discredit their efforts.

Established in 1971, the Commission for Women (CFW) has been a voice for women to combat domestic violence and promote educational equality and progress in the workplace. CFW honors local women, past and present, who have taken the lead in advocating for change and establishing firmer safeguards, practices, and legislation reflecting values of inclusion, equality, and fairness.

Therefore, we move without objection, that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation to be presented to the Commission for Women in the Board room on March 5, 2024, to designate March 2024 as Women's History Month in Fairfax County, and to recognize and celebrate the vital role women play in Fairfax County's history and across our nation.

# **Women's History Month March 2024 Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the National Women's History Month is an opportunity to celebrate, and recognizing the vital role of women across the nation in eliminating bias and discrimination from our lives and institutions for a positive future;

WHEREAS, women from diverse backgrounds have long recognized the inherent injustice of an uneven playing field and are committed to speaking up and working diligently for fairness in our institutions and social interactions;

WHEREAS, in alignment with the One Fairfax policy, we acknowledge that a just and inclusive society requires the collective effort of women, as integral members of families, civic and community groups, businesses, and legislative bodies, challenging the status quo and reevaluating harmful social policies that subtly shape our future;

WHEREAS, in 2024, we celebrate the example set by women who are dedicated to embracing everyone and excluding no one in our collective pursuit of freedom and opportunity, understanding the transformative power of diverse voices in shaping a just society, especially for the younger generation;

WHEREAS, women across the nation are actively engaged in developing innovative programs and projects within corporations, the military, federal agencies, and educational organizations to address and rectify injustices related to equity, diversity, and inclusion;

WHEREAS, the courage displayed by women advocating for practical goals like equity, diversity, and inclusion is commendable, particularly in the face of opposition from established forces seeking to misinterpret, exploit, or discredit their efforts;

WHEREAS, throughout 2024, we proudly honor the local women, past and present, who have taken the lead in advocating for change and establishing firmer safeguards, practices, and legislation reflecting the values of inclusion, equality, and fairness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all citizens of Fairfax County and the Commission for Women, hereby declare March 2024 as

**Women's History Month in Fairfax County.**

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that we honor the courage, dedication, and contributions of these women, past and present, who work tirelessly to eliminate discrimination, promote equality, and champion the cause of basic inclusion, recognizing the ongoing need for such efforts in the pursuit of a fair and just community.