

# Whereas

*Whereas,* Women's History Month began as a local celebration of "Women's History Week" organized by the Santa Rosa, California school district in March 1978 to correspond with International Women's Day; and

*Whereas,* In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th, 1980 as National Women's History Week and the United States has formally recognized March as National Women's History Month since 1987; and

*Whereas,* International Women's Day will be celebrated in many countries around the world on March 8, 2021 as a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political; and

*Whereas,* We pause to reflect on the accomplishments of women in this great City of Portland and around the world. And we take this time in March to acknowledge female historical leaders such as Lola Greene Baldwin and Esther Pohl.

Portland Mayor Harry Lane administered the police oath to forty-eight-year-old Lola Greene Baldwin on April 1, 1908, making her the first woman hired under US civil service rules to become a fulltime paid law enforcement officer.

Esther Pohl, one of the first women to practice medicine in Oregon, was known for riding her bicycle to make house calls in Portland. On July 11, 1907 she was unanimously elected Health Commissioner, becoming the first woman Health Officer of a major US city. She worked combating smallpox, whooping cough, and tuberculosis before using the latest scientific knowledge to focus Portland's response to bubonic plague on the rats and their fleas; and

*Whereas,* The World Bank's recent 'Women, Business and the Law Report' shows only six countries give women equal legal work rights as men. In 2018, full-time male employees in Oregon made 1.26 times more pay than female employees; and

*Whereas,* Portland has determined that 14.9% of the population live below the poverty line, a number that is higher than the national average of 13.1%, with the largest demographic being Females 25 -34; and

*Whereas,* Women are 47% more likely to suffer severe injuries in car crashes because safety features are designed for men and disasters such as floods, storms and drought kill more women than men due to the unequal division of power and resources; and

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*Whereas,* 50.6 % of Portland residents are women but only 36.9 % of city employees are. The Women's Empowerment Affinity Group's mission is to empower and inspire all women within the City of Portland workforce in a supportive, non-judgmental way; and

*Whereas,* We strive to ensure a world where we study and salute women and their contributions year-round and we can hope that in Portland little girls with dreams can grow up to become women with visions.

*Now, therefore,* I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim March 2021 to be

## *Women's History Month*

In Portland and encourage all residents to observe this day.

Proclaim March 2021 to be Women's History Month  
(Proclamation introduced by Mayor Wheeler)

**March 3, 2021**  
**Placed on file**

Filed February 23, 2021

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
**Auditor of the City of Portland**

By *Keelan McClymont*  
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Rubio		
2. Ryan		
3. Hardesty		
4. Mapps		
Wheeler		