

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: March 3, 2009

Action Agenda

Item No. 4-e

SUBJECT: Women's History Month Proclamation

DEPARTMENT: Human Rights and Relations

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

No

ATTACHMENT(S):

Women's History Month Proclamation

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shoshannah Smith, 960-3877

PURPOSE: To recognize March 2009 as Women's History Month in Orange County.

BACKGROUND: The Orange County Commission for Women was established on March 25, 1976. The agency was created as part of a statewide effort by the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women to organize a network of Women's Councils for North Carolina counties.

The Commission for Women is currently engaged in projects including a mentoring program for teen girls ("Girl Talk"), the bi-annual Women's Agenda Assembly, annual Women's Advocacy Day, and an annual celebration of March as Women's History Month. This year's Women's History Month celebration will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the Southern Human Services Center from 10am – 11:30am, with complimentary breakfast starting at 9:30am. The program, "Women Breaking Barriers," will feature a panel discussion with Orange County women innovators. The attached proclamation of Women's History Month is a further effort to recognize the accomplishments of women in Orange County and beyond.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board approve the proclamation and authorize the Chair to sign it.

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Orange County Commission for Women and Office of Human Rights and Relations have diligently served the County of Orange since 1976 and 1995 respectively, and are committed to promoting the growth and development of all Orange County women and girls; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our County in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Orange County women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the County by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, women have played a unique role throughout the history of the United States by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force; and

WHEREAS, women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina do hereby proclaim March 2009 as "**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**" in Orange County and challenge County residents to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

THIS THE 3rd DAY OF MARCH, 2009.

*Valerie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners*