

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, LIZ BREADON, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND REAFFIRMING BOSTON'S COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**WHEREAS,** March is nationally recognized as Women's History Month, honoring the historic and ongoing contributions of women to the social, economic, cultural, and civic life of the United States; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston has served as a national center for women's leadership and social change, including the early women's rights movement led by Lucy Stone and the New England Woman Suffrage Association, the literary legacy of Phillis Wheatley, the civil rights leadership of Melnea Cass, and the continued organizing of women across every Boston neighborhood; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Women comprise over 52% of Boston's population and more than 49% of the City's workforce, serving as educators, healthcare workers, entrepreneurs, public servants, caregivers, and community leaders who sustain the City's economy and social infrastructure; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Women in Boston remain disproportionately impacted by economic and health inequities, including a persistent gender wage gap in which women in Greater Boston earn approximately 82 cents for every dollar earned by men, with Black and Latina women earning significantly less, rising housing cost burdens, with women, particularly single mothers, more likely to be rent-burdened or housing-insecure, and maternal health disparities that place Black women in Massachusetts at more than twice the risk of pregnancy-related death compared to white women; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Women in Boston also experience disproportionate rates of domestic and sexual violence, and are more likely to serve as unpaid caregivers, increasing vulnerability to economic instability; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Recent federal actions and judicial decisions have weakened protections related to reproductive healthcare, workplace rights, civil rights enforcement, and gender-based discrimination, placing women's health, autonomy, and safety at risk. These federal rollbacks disproportionately harm women of color,

low-income women, immigrant women, LGBTQ+ women, and women with disabilities, compounding existing inequities within Boston communities; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Massachusetts has demonstrated its commitment to women through investments and policies including paid parental leave, pay equity reforms, domestic violence prevention services, workforce development initiatives, maternal health programs, and expanded access to reproductive and family healthcare; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** This moment demands renewed local leadership to affirm that women’s rights are human rights, and that Boston will remain a city that defends dignity, equity, and opportunity for all; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

***RESOLVED,*** That the Boston City Council hereby recognizes March as Women’s History Month and honors the immeasurable contributions of women to the City of Boston. The Council reaffirms Boston’s commitment to advancing gender equity and protecting women’s rights, particularly at a time when federal actions threaten long-standing civil and human rights protections. A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Office of the Clerk, the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement, and relevant state and federal partners.

Filed on: February 25, 2026