

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0209R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Scott, Costello, Kraft, Stokes, Henry, President Young,
Councilmembers Middleton, Branch, Clarke, Reisinger, Curran, Mosby, Welch
Introduced and adopted: March 9, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Women’s HerStory Month – “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives”

FOR the purpose of recognizing March as Women’s History Month, celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Women’s History Movement, and urging all Baltimoreans to reflect on the theme of this year’s event – “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives” – as well as the importance of acknowledging the critical role that women of every race, class, and ethnic background have played throughout history and the many ways that women’s history has become woven into the fabric of our national story.

Recitals

March is National Women's History Month. Every year the National Women’s History Project selects a unifying theme to be shared with all who want to promote women’s history. This year’s theme of “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives” presents the opportunity to weave women’s stories – individually and collectively – into the essential fabric of our nation’s history.

Each year since 1987, the United States Congress has passed a proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month. This month is intended to be a focus on the fact that “American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways” (1987 Congressional Proclamation) as well as on accounts of American women who served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement. Many organizations substitute “HerStory” to highlight the focus on women from a historical perspective. The term was coined by Robin Morgan in her classic book, *Sisterhood is Powerful*

Accounts of the lives of individual women are critically important because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. The stories of women’s lives, and the choices they made, encourage girls and young women to think larger and bolder, and give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience. Knowing women’s achievements challenges stereotypes and upends social assumptions about who women are and what women can accomplish today.

There is a real power in hearing women’s stories, both personally and in a larger context. Remembering and recounting tales of our ancestors’ talents, sacrifices, and commitments inspires today’s generations and opens the way to the future.

2015 is also the 35th anniversary of the Women’s History Movement and the National Women’s History Project. We should all be proud that, after decades of dedicated research and technological advances, the stories of American women from all cultures and classes are

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 15-0209R

1 accessible and visible as never before. Numerous scholars and activists helped shape the
2 Women’s History Movement, and also provided the research and energy which created and
3 sustains the National Women’s History Project. During 2015, we recognize and celebrate the
4 many ways that women’s history has become woven into the fabric of our national story.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
6 Council recognizes March as Women’s History Month, celebrates the 35th anniversary of the
7 Women’s History Movement, and urges all Baltimoreans to reflect on the theme of this year’s
8 event – “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives” – as well as the importance of acknowledging
9 the critical role that women of every race, class, and ethnic background have played throughout
10 history and the many ways that women’s history has become woven into the fabric of our
11 national story.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
13 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
14 Maryland General Assembly, the Chair of the Maryland Commission for Women, the Maryland
15 Delegation to the 114th Congress, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Mayor’s
16 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.