

PROCLAMATION

City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

WHEREAS, August 26, 2019 marks the 99th anniversary of women in the United States gaining the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the call for women's right to vote was voiced at the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, and the solidification of this right into law was the result of decades of work by committed suffragists who fought for this right; and

WHEREAS, even before they gained the right to vote, America's women were leaders of movements, academics, and reformers, and had even served in the Congress. Legions of brave women wrote and lectured for change. They let their feet speak when their voices alone were not enough, protesting and marching for their fundamental right to vote in the face of heckling, jail, and abuse. Their efforts led to enormous progress. Millions upon millions of women have since used the power of the ballot to help shape our country; and

WHEREAS, at a time when women were meant to be seen and not heard, the suffragists braved censure and disgrace by speaking out on behalf of all women and organized for their rights. Remarkable women arose in each state and became part of history themselves when they successfully secured civil rights and political independence for American women; and

WHEREAS, to these committed and determined women, voting was not the end of the journey for equality, but the beginning of a new era in the advancement of our Union. These brave and tenacious women challenged our nation to live up to its founding principles, and their legacy inspires us to reach even higher in our pursuit of liberty and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Women's Advisory Board has identified the theme for the 2019 Women's Equality Day Program and Event to be Empowering Women in the Work Place; and

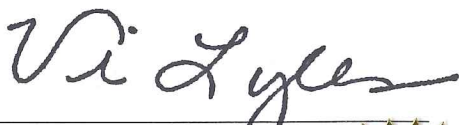
WHEREAS, this year's event will be held at the New Science Building on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University on August 19, 2019 between 5:30-8:00 PM, and the public is invited and encouraged to participate in this free celebration:

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, and George Dunlap, Chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2019 as

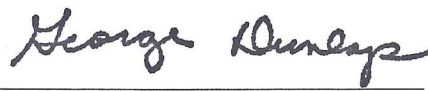
"WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY"

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

WITNESS OUR HANDS and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.



Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor
City of Charlotte



George Dunlap, Chairman
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

