WHEREAS, March 8, 2018 is the 107th International Women’s Day, a global celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women around the world and a day to recognize the obstacles women still face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities and their central role in creating positive change; and

WHEREAS, the holiday began as National Woman's Day, first observed by the U.S. labor movement on February 28, 1909 to honor participants in the 1908 International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union strike; and

WHEREAS, International Women’s Day was first celebrated on March 19, 1911, but the date for this annual commemoration was not fixed on March 8 until 1914; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 study of overall weekly earnings in the U.S., women were paid 82 percent of what men earned for equivalent work, with African American (63 percent), Native American (59 percent), and Latina (54 percent) women being paid significantly less; and

WHEREAS, women worldwide are still denied educational opportunities, with about 61 million girls out of school in 2016 internationally, according to UNICEF, and girls four times more likely to be out of school than boys from the same background; and

WHEREAS, despite these inequities, women continue to make major contributions to our society, ranging from the historical victories of the women’s suffrage movement to the current day leadership by black women in Black Lives Matters.

WHEREAS, the theme for this year’s celebration is #PressforProgress: a call to motivate and unite friends, colleagues, and communities to think, act, and be gender inclusive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim March 8, 2018 to be

International Women’s Day

in King County. I encourage all residents to join me in supporting the goals of International Women’s Day in reaffirming our commitment to end gender-based discrimination in all forms.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive