Proclamation

Recognizing Women's History Month 2026

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Education Task Force in Sonoma County, California, realized something huge was missing from school curriculums: women. They organized a "Women's History Week" to start on March 8th because it corresponds with International Women's Day, which has roots in labor movements from the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, March was officially designated as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, March is National Women's History Month, a time to honor the remarkable contributions of American women from every race, class, and ethnic background. These extraordinary individuals have played pivotal roles in shaping the growth and strength of our nation, as well as enriching our economic, cultural, and social landscape. Their legacies inspire us to reflect on the past while motivating us to pursue a more equitable future; and

WHEREAS, Women have served our country with valor, from the battlefields of the Revolutionary War to the present time. During Women's History Month, we recognize the victories, struggles, and stories of the women who have made our country what it is today; and

WHEREAS, Women have served as leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, 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, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home, within corporations, the military, federal and local government agencies and educational organizations; and

WHEREAS, far too often women's heroic efforts and their stories have gone untold – especially those of the millions of Black women, immigrant women, Indigenous women and others from diverse communities who have strengthened our communities across generations; and

WHEREAS, in remembering the trailblazers of the past and the heroines of present day, we honor their legacies by carrying forward the valuable lessons learned from the powerful examples they set; and

WHEREAS, women have long advocated for compassionate treatments and new directions in public health and in women's mental and physical health. Women have historically led the way in mending divisions, healing wounds, and finding peaceful solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillside is proud to honor the stories, history and contributions of women in our community and throughout our state and our Nation. And proud to put forth the goal of gender equity and work to ensure representation and opportunity for all its women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillside has a rich history of dynamic women leaders, elected officials, community servants, volunteers and caregivers, entrepreneurs and business professionals, educators, and more who have influenced and elevated the township; and

WHEREAS, this year we honor those who, in both public and private life, provide healing and promote hope for the betterment of all; and

NOW, THEREFORE, **I**, **ANDREA L HYATT**, Mayor of the Township of Hillside, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim **March 2026** as**: NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH,** and encourage all Hillside residents to join us in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

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Andrea L. Hyatt
Mayor, Hillside Township

DATED: Monday, March 1, 2026