**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY PROCLAMATION 2019**

**Celebrating progress of and opportunities for women and girls**

**Whereas,** since its inception through the Charter of the United Nations, the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men, the United Nations has been engaged in a decades-long effort to eliminate gender inequalities that included the creation of the Commission on the Status of Women through Security Council Resolution 11(II) in 1947, the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1979, the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security in 2000, and the establishment of International Women’s Day in 1975; and

**Whereas,** International Women’s Day presents an ideal opportunity to reflect on past struggles and progress made, recognizes that much remains to be done to improve the status of women and girls, considers ways to address present challenges, and reaffirms our commitment to advancing gender equality and unleashing the potential of future generations of women.

**Whereas,** the United Nations has helped create a historic legacy of internationally-agreed strategies, standards, programs, and goals to advance the status of girls and women worldwide and continues to stand with girls and women around the world as they fight to overcome the injustices they face; and

**Whereas,** in the words of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, “Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world,” and the participation of women as equal partners with men in the political and economic arenas is key to accelerating the achievements of the sustainable development goals, peace, security, and full respect for human rights.

**Whereas,** UN Women has declared the theme for 2019 is “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change” to focus on the role of innovation and technology in creating unprecedented opportunities for women and girls and recognize ways in which gender advocates can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure.

**Whereas,** the [insert Chapter/Division name] is committed to shaping a better future by promoting human rights and equality for all, and women’s participation makes peace agreements stronger, societies more resilient, and economies more vigorous;

**Whereas,** the [insert Chapter/Division name] recognizes that gender equality is a human rights issue inextricably tied to justice, freedom, and peace; and pledges to take action to stand up for the rights of women and girls and play the crucial role of civil society in leading global action on gender equality.

**Whereas,** the citizens of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_should participate in all activities related to International Women’s Day;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ officially proclaim March 8, 2019 as

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY**

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be affixed on this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the year 2019.

Seal

Signature