PROCLAMATION

2019 Women’s History Month

**WHEREAS**, for more than two centuries, our Nation has grown under the simple creed that each of us is created equal. It is a notion that makes America unlike any other place on earth, a Country where no matter where you come from or what you look like, you can go as far as your talents will take you; and

**WHEREAS,** Women’s History Month is a time to remember those who fought (and those who fought and died) to make that freedom as real for our daughters as for our sons. Written out the promise of the franchise, they were women who reached up to close the gap between America and what it could be. They were driven by a faith that our Union could extend true equality to every citizen willing to claim it. Year after year, visionary women met and marched and mobilized to prove what should have been self–evident. They took a meeting at Seneca Falls and grew it into a movement that touched every community and took on our highest institutions. And after decades of slow, steady, extraordinary progress, women have written equal opportunity into the law again and again, giving generations of girls a future worthy of their potential; and

**WHEREAS,** that legacy of the change is all around us. Women are more than half of our population, nearly half of our Nation’s workforce, and more than half of our college graduates. But even now, too many women feel the weight of discrimination on their shoulders. They face a pay gap at work, or higher premiums for health insurance, or inadequate options for family leave. These issues affect all of us, and failing to address them holds our country back; and

**WHEREAS**, medical research has for decades focused on men, ignoring women and particularly women of color almost entirely. In fact, medical research in many areas including cardiovascular disease, which actually kills more women than men, often includes few women subjects or doesn’t report results by gender. This disparity in research by gender has resulted in misdiagnoses and incorrect treatment and death of women; and

**WHEREAS**, recent times have brought to light the sexual harassment and abuse imposed for decades on women in the workforce, holding them prisoners to power and limiting their ability to advance and thrive in their careers; and

**WHEREAS**, women and men are uniting through the #TimesUp and #MeToo movements to fight for women’s safety by creating an environment that allows more and more women to courageously speak their truths and come forward to call out their abusers; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of women and men across the world have turned out in protest of a U.S. President who has objectified women, bragged of sexual assault, and set the stage for women to open up about their past experiences of sexual harassment, assault and discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, while the midterm election brought more women than ever to the U.S. Congress, women are still not fully or adequately represented at the top tables of organizations and corporations nor on local, state and national legislative and governing bodies, and are therefore not being heard or listened to; nor is a woman’s very important perspective properly represented when decisions and laws are being made; and

**WHEREAS,** our history shows that when we couple grit and ingenuity with our beliefs, there is no barrier we cannot overcome. We can stay true to our founding creed that in America, all things should be possible for all people. That spirit is what called our mothers and grandmothers to fight for a world where no wall or ceiling could keep their daughters from their dreams. Although we still have much to do and we need more women running for office to make our opportunities brighter, we recognize the accomplishments of women who fought for our rights in the past and pledge to them to keep advocating for equality; and

**WHEREAS**, Women’s History Month is also not adequately recognized each year, nor are the accomplishments of women in history adequately focused on in our schools during the month of March and otherwise; and

**WHEREAS**, South Orange and Maplewood community leaders are working together to finally shine the spotlight on Women’s History Month with events and promotion of local women-owned businesses, and to celebrate women’s empowerment, and to focus on women in history who fought for our rights and whose lives changed the course of history.

**NOW THEREFORE,** Mayor Victor DeLuca and the Township Committee, do hereby proclaim March 2019 as Women’s History Month in the Township Maplewood.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth J. Fritzen Victor DeLuca

Township Clerk Mayor