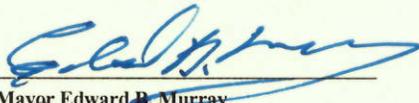


# PROCLAMATION

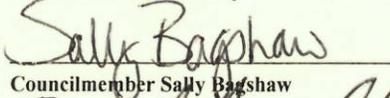
## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution extended the vote to women - a major victory for the women's rights and gender equality movement; and
- WHEREAS, on the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Women's Equality Day, we celebrate the progress that has been made toward securing women's full participation in our democracy and renew our commitment to securing equal rights, freedoms, and opportunities for all women; and
- WHEREAS, despite many advances, gender inequality remains pervasive and impacts every aspect of women's lives, including their economic security, safety, and health care; and
- WHEREAS, women continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay, which stem from inadequate workplace policies to address overt and inadvertent gender discrimination and uneven access to basic support measures such as paid family leave and affordable child care; and
- WHEREAS, fair pay equity policies, paid family leave, and affordable childcare have been shown to increase women's lifetime earnings and the economic security of families; and
- WHEREAS, Seattle women still face disparities in receiving the reproductive health care they need due to bans on public insurance coverage of abortion;
- WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated in Washington State that qualified health plans in 2015 were giving false and misleading information to women about contraceptive coverage, and that overall awareness of a woman's right to a full range of contraceptive methods without co-pay is very low; and
- WHEREAS, sexual harassment and sexual assault on college campuses remain pervasive issues that disproportionately impact women, denying them equal opportunity to succeed in higher education; and
- WHEREAS, while we reflect on the progress we have made, Seattle's leadership will remain committed to advancing women's equality by supporting local efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap, promote paid family leave, increase the availability of affordable childcare, ensure the safety for women on college campuses, and secure women's access to a full range of affordable contraceptive and reproductive care; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Seattle urges its citizens to recognize the full value of promoting a broad-based agenda to ensure that Seattle is making swift and appropriate progress toward ensuring that women have the necessary support to succeed in the workforce, have equal opportunity to succeed in higher education, and have equitable access to quality, affordable health care without discrimination;

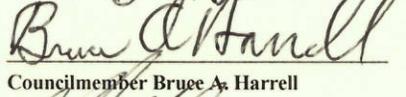
Now, therefore, The Seattle City Council, the Mayor concurring, *proclaims:*  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2015 to be Women's Equality Day**



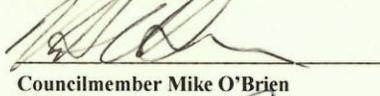
Mayor Edward B. Murray



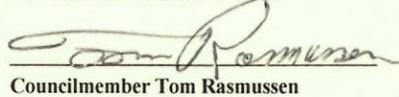
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Bruce A. Harrell



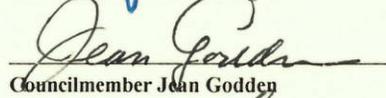
Councilmember Mike O'Brien



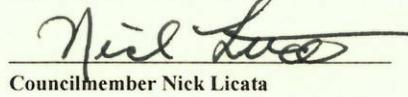
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen



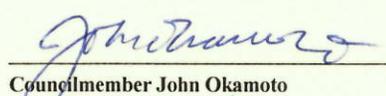
Council President Tim Burgess



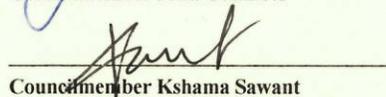
Councilmember Jean Godden



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember John Okamoto



Councilmember Kshama Sawant