



City of Westland

Declaration of Women of Westland (WOW) Week

WHEREAS, according to US Census Bureau, 52.8% of City of Westland's population is female;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the beauty and benefits of honoring the salient and significant contributions of women, especially residents;

WHEREAS, Women of Westland are ceaselessly making positive impact as mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters, aunties, friends, good neighbors, elected officials, City administrative staff, heads of departments, scientists, trades persons, dedicated professionals in various fields, law enforcement officers, entrepreneurs, faith leaders, and community advocates;

WHEREAS, female jurist Sandra Ference Cicirelli is the only person who has served as Council president, mayor, and chief judge in the City;

WHEREAS, the City Council currently has three elected female members, Andrea Rutkowski, Emily Bauman, and President Pro-Tem Melissa Sampey;

WHEREAS, the Deputy City Clerk, Shannon Inman, a female, is duly certified as a Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk;

WHEREAS, the City's Senior Friendship Center, is headed by Beth Welkenbach;

WHEREAS, many impactful women serve on City boards and commissions, and as election workers;

WHEREAS, many Westland businesses and not-for-profit organizations are founded and/or led by accomplished women, including racial minorities;

WHEREAS, indefatigable Westland women like Ruby Richards, Lori Wilson and Juanita Francis Obie successfully championed the creation of the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Commission in 2020, and the DEI Department in 2022;

WHEREAS, nobody has the right to disrespect, disparage, deprive or discriminate against any person or group of persons in the City because of their gender or gender identity; and



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WHEREAS, August 26 is nationally recognized as **Women's Equality Day**, commemorating the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution which resulted from the women's rights movement led by activists Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND KNOWN THAT:

On this15th.....Day of July 2024, the Mayor of the City of Westland, along with members of the Westland City Council and the City Clerk are declaring and naming the **last week of August each year the Women of Westland (WOW) Week** to collectively celebrate the immense contributions of women to the progress of the City, and promote their deserved dignity, wellbeing and greater participation in civic life.

During the Week, individuals and organizations in the City are encouraged to spotlight and strengthen equal and fair opportunities for all women and girls.

Kevin Coleman

Mayor, City of Westland

Mike McDermott, Council President **Melissa Sampey** Council President Pro-Tem

Andrea Rutkowski, Councilwoman **Emily Bauman**, Councilwoman

James Hart, Councilman **Douglas Wishart, Jr.**, Councilman

DeLano Hornbuckle, Councilman **Richard LeBlanc**, City Clerk