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## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

WHEREAS, the Town of Kitty Hawk forthrightly supports equal rights for the citizens of Kitty Hawk and all people; and

WHEREAS, women in the United States, since the founding of our country, have been subject to laws denying their ability to participate fully in the blessings of liberty enshrined in the Constitution of the United States for “we the people”; and

WHEREAS, the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was a proposed amendment to the Constitution intended to guarantee equal rights to women; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed ERA in 1972, and submitted it to state legislatures for ratification, with a ratification deadline of March 22, 1979; and

WHEREAS, the amendment did not become a part of the Constitution because only 35 of the necessary 38 states ratified the amendment, 5 of those states rescinded the ratification and no more states ratified before the extended deadline of June 30, 1982; and

WHEREAS, the United States has made great strides supporting women’s rights in the past fifty years, such as the nomination of a woman for President of the United States and women now outnumbering men in enrollment for higher education; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment's equal protection has been interpreted by the Supreme Court recently to guarantee gender rights for males and females, invoking strict judicial scrutiny, in the decision banning discrimination against same sex marriages; and

WHEREAS, ERA is highly controversial and the failure of state ratification was mainly due to widespread opposition from women; and

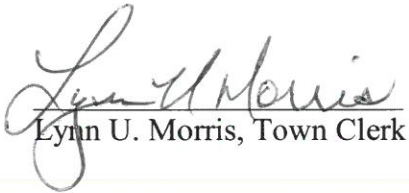
WHEREAS, regardless of progress, women in the United States continue to confront political obstacles, workplace and health care inequities, high rates of poverty and domestic violence; and

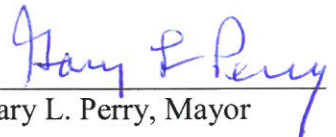
WHEREAS, legislative branches in both federal and state governments have the constitutional power to pass laws removing societal inequities and punishing crimes perpetrated against women.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, consistent with our commitment to equality for all people and the Constitutional power and duty of legislative branches of the United States and the State of North Carolina call for:

- 1) Open, vigorous debate in the United States Congress and the North Carolina Legislature to remedy inequities facing women in federal and state statutes, in order to continue progress in the advances in equal rights that women achieved in in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2) If a Constitutional Amendment is deemed necessary to advance women's equal rights, take up the ERA in The United States Congress, giving all voices of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the opportunity to engage with elected officials to produce an amendment likely to achieve ratification.

This the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017.

  
Lynn U. Morris, Town Clerk

  
Gary L. Perry, Mayor