



City of Cambridge

R-15.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Women's Heritage Project, through on-going programs, initiatives, and research, is working to recognize the remarkable and ordinary women of Cambridge and their contributions, both past and present, to the City, the Commonwealth, and the Nation; and
- WHEREAS: Pearl K. Wise, born in Russia, arrived in this country at the age of four. In 1924, the family settled in Cambridge. She had a long career in local politics and was a wife and mother; and
- WHEREAS: She obtained her first job as Secretary to the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee. She then became Executive Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League; and
- WHEREAS: After many years of serving on the Executive Board of the Cambridge League of Women Voters and its President from 1942-1945, Pearl began to take an active part in city public affairs; and
- WHEREAS: In 1947, she built a strong coalition of PTA Associations and was the first President of the Cambridge High and Latin PTA; and
- WHEREAS: In 1948, she led the State wide campaign of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters which brought about the Law enabling women to serve as jurors in State and Federal Courts; and
- WHEREAS: In 1949, Pearl was elected to the first of her three terms on the Cambridge School Committee where she introduced Resolutions establishing a Citizen's Advisory Committee to help plan new schools, the School Hot Lunch Program, Libraries in every school, and Promotional Examinations enabling women to become Principals; and
- WHEREAS: In 1956, Pearl introduced the Resolution to observe Black History Week and arranged for a special exhibit at City Hall of the paintings of Black artists; and
- WHEREAS: Pearl was the first woman under the Plan E Charter to be elected to the Cambridge City Council where she served from 1956 to 1963. During these years she introduced a Resolution which established a Citizen's Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal, pressed for representation of women on all City Boards, and strongly opposed construction of the inner belt highway through Cambridge; and

- WHEREAS: In 1963, Pearl cast the decisive vote which saved 150 homes in the Wellington-Harrington area of East Cambridge from demolition. In so doing, she took responsibility for assuring strong neighborhood participation in urban planning, a new concept at the time; and
- WHEREAS: In 1965, she was the first woman appointed to the Cambridge Housing Authority where she supported tenant organizations and the Model Cities Program. After four years on the Housing Authority, she retired; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge women of every race, class, ethnicity and of every era of history have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the City, Commonwealth, and Nation; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial, the civil rights movement, and other progressive movements, which create a more fair and just society; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge women have historically provided the majority of the volunteer labor force and established many early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge women have been local and national leaders in the fields of science, medicine, art, architecture, literature, education, social work, business, philosophy, and in many other academic and professional disciplines; and
- WHEREAS: Despite their many contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: The Cambridge City Council re-confirms that March is designated as "**Cambridge Women's History Month**," to coincide with National Women's History Month; and further be it
- RESOLVED: The in March 2000, special recognition is given to the life and works of Pearl K. Wise. The Cambridge Women's Heritage Project is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation each March, calling upon the women and men of Cambridge to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In City Council March 6, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

XO Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

C. Reel

CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S HERITAGE PROJECTCO-SPONSORED BY THE CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S COMMISSION &
CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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WHEREAS: In 1956, Pearl introduced the Resolution to observe Black History Week and arrange for a special exhibit at City Hall of the paintings of Black artists.

WHEREAS: Pearl was the first woman under the Plan E Charter to be elected to the Cambridge City Council where she served from 1956 to 1963. During these years she introduced a Resolution which established a Citizen's Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal, pressed for representation of women on all City Boards, and strongly opposed construction of the inner belt highway through Cambridge.

WHEREAS: In 1963, Pearl cast the decisive vote which saved 150 homes in the Wellington-Harrington area of East Cambridge from demolition. In so doing, she took responsibility for assuring strong neighborhood participation in urban planning, a new concept at the time.

WHEREAS: In 1965, she was the first woman appointed to the Cambridge Housing Authority where she supported tenant organizations and the Model Cities Program. After four years on the Housing Authority, she retired.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WHEREAS: Cambridge women of every race, class, ethnicity and of every era of history have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the City, Commonwealth, and Nation;

WHEREAS: Cambridge women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial, the civil rights movement, and other progressive movements, which create a more fair and just society;

WHEREAS: Cambridge women have historically provided the majority of the volunteer labor force and established many early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions;

WHEREAS: Cambridge women have been local and national leaders in the fields of science, medicine, art, architecture, literature, education, social work, business, philosophy, and in many other academic and professional disciplines; and

WHEREAS: Despite their many contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued; now, therefore be it

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Resolution #15

Designate March as Cambridge
Women's History Month, to
coincide with National Women's
History Month and special
recognition to the life and works of
Pearl K. Wise.

Councillor Reeves

In City Council March 6, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED