



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cool Spring Downtown District Partners With Local Organizations To Celebrate Women’s Equality Day

Walk to commemorate the passing of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote

Graphic: shorturl.at/fpr01

Fayetteville, N.C. – Cool Spring Downtown District (CSDD), Center for Economic Empowerment & Development (NCCEED), the Fayetteville chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and Action NC Race, Equality and Gender (NC RAGE) have partnered to host a community Walk for Women’s Equality Day in Downtown Fayetteville during August 4th Friday, on August 26, 2022 from 7:00PM – 8:00PM.

In 1973, Congress designated August 26 as “Women’s Equality Day.” The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world’s first women’s rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

Attendees are asked to assemble at Market Square at 7:00PM where several community leaders - including Judges Patricia Timmons-Goodson and Toni King - will give short speeches, and then lead the procession down Hay Street to City Hall Plaza at 7:30PM. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to wear white and showcase signage with slogans commemorating the passing of women’s right to vote, as well as contemporary efforts to solidify equality for all women.

Partners recognize that while the 19th amendment ostensibly granted all women the right to vote, women of color had that right stripped from them, especially in the southern United States. Black women often risked life, limb, and economic security in order to exercise their basic right to register to vote and participate in elections. During the Walk for Women’s Equality, partners and attendees will also honor the 1965 Voting Rights Act that made the 19th Amendment a reality for millions of black women.

In addition to the walk, Fayetteville NOW will circulate throughout the 4th Friday footprint with voter pledge cards encouraging people to vote in November. NCCEED will also be hosting a brunch earlier that same day at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden, with keynote speaker Judge Patricia Timmons-Goodson.

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*The **Cool Spring Downtown District, Inc.** is a charitable, nonprofit corporation formed in 2017 to create and sustain an arts and entertainment district located in downtown Fayetteville, North Carolina, as a vibrant center of artistic, cultural, civic and commercial activity. Visitors to and residents of Cumberland County may follow CSDD's efforts and announcements on their website at visitdowntownfayetteville.com, on Facebook and Instagram at [@downtownfayetteville](https://www.facebook.com/downtownfayetteville), or [@coolspringdowntowndistrict](https://www.instagram.com/coolspringdowntowndistrict).*

*The **Center for Economic Empowerment & Development (CEED)**, formerly known as the Women's Center of Fayetteville, was founded May 20th, 1990 as the result of the vision and determination of a small group of Fayetteville women who recognized the demand for a facility where the information on community services could be collected and distributed to our community. CEED delivers a \$10 million per year impact to the Sandhills Region of North Carolina through programs and services such as Self Sufficiency & Housing, Small Business Loans, trainings, and advocacy. (www.ncceed.org)*

*As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, the **National Organization for Women** is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights, and is the largest organization of feminist grassroots activists in the United States. Fayetteville chapter activities include: Working against Violence Against Women, Yearly Scholarship for women; Participation in the Women's Agenda; Election Activities; Lobbying Lawmakers; Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration, Court Watch for Domestic Violence, Community Conversations on Race Relations. (<https://now.org/chapter/fayetteville-now/>)*

*Founded in 2010, **Action NC**'s mission is to increase racial, gender and economic equity through popular education, grassroots organization, mass mobilization, and greater voter participation. The RAGE initiative stands with women by taking action for freedom, fairness, and opportunity for women in regards to fair wages, modernized workplace standards against discrimination, and more. (www.actionnc.org)*

For all media inquiries and more information contact Chief Executive Officer Bianca Shoneman at bianca@coolspringfay.org or (910) 223-1089.