

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (“CEDAW”) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and opened for signature in December 1979; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of CEDAW is rooted in the goals of the United Nations to affirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of women and men and as CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for challenging the various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based upon sex; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized nation to not yet ratify CEDAW and many cities, including the City of San José, have called for ratification of CEDAW by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, 163 countries, representing over three-fourths (3/4) of the world, have now ratified or acceded to CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW, also called the International Bill of Rights for Women, obligates those countries which have ratified or accede to it to take appropriate measures to ensure the full development and advancement of women in all spheres - including political, educational, employment, health care, economic, social, legal marriage and family relations - as well as to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of

women and men to eliminate prejudice as well as customs and practices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either sex; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 1999 the Council of the City of San José adopted Resolution No. 68921 in support of the CEDAW, and there is still a continuing need for the City to protect the human rights of women by addressing discrimination and violence against women and to locally support the principles of CEDAW. Adherence to the principles of CEDAW on the local level will especially promote equal access to and equity in health care, economic development, educational opportunities, and employment for women, and will also address the continuing and critical problem of violence against women; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments have an appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of international law in their own communities as universal norms and to serve as guides for public policy; and

WHEREAS, there are many precedents for city government to take such initiative to link local government support to international covenants; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this resolution would further support the initiative of the California State legislature in endorsing ratification of the CEDAW, when by resolutions it has encouraged the United States Senate to ratify CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, the City of San José has demonstrated its commitment to women's rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

1. The City of San José reaffirms its support of the United States' ratification or accession to The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
2. The Mayor is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, with a copy to the City of San José's local representatives U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, and U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, and Ro Khanna urging immediate action begin on CEDAW and urging support for the United States' ratification or accession to CEDAW.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

SAM LICCARDO
Mayor

ATTEST:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk