



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Vice Mayor Magdalena
Carrasco

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 19, 2017

APPROVE:

DATE:

December 19 2017

**SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO THE LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

RECOMMENDATION

Support staff's recommendations to adopt a resolution in support of adopting the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women referred to as the Women's Bill of Rights. Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 2.08 of Title 2 of the San Jose Municipal Code to add a new Part 49 for the local implementation of the Women's Bill of Rights.

BACKGROUND

The development of a resolution in support of adopting the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women referred to as the Women's Bill of Rights was supported by a unanimous vote during the last priority setting session.

In 1999 the City Council adopted a resolution entitled Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women referred to as the Women's Bill of Rights. The primary purpose of the resolution was to ensure the fundamental human rights in the dignity and worth of all human persons, and in the equal rights of women and men and provide a framework for challenging various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based on sex. One hundred sixty-three countries have now ratified or acceded to the Women's Bill of Rights; however, the United States Congress has not yet ratified it. There is 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 the Women's Bill of Rights. The County of Santa Clara, and other cities, have been working on an ordinance to promote gender equity, in all social, political, and cultural spheres.

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I support the staff recommendation that the City's Human Rights Commission be the oversight body to implement the provisions of the proposed ordinance. I look forward to the continued work on this issue and my office is available for any policy recommendations that may arise from the gender analysis.