



City of Milpitas

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City Council of Milpitas Unanimously Introduces Ordinance Implementing the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Milpitas, CA – June 18, 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At a City Council meeting on June 16, the Milpitas City Council unanimously voted to implement Ordinance No. 306 for local implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is an international human rights treaty developed by the United Nations to provide a universal definition of discrimination against women and bring attention to a range of women's rights and issues.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted CEDAW in 1979 and President Carter signed the treaty on behalf of the United States in 1980, though the United States Senate has never ratified CEDAW. Since 1995, many state and local jurisdictions have passed resolutions in support of CEDAW, and in 2014, cities across the nation began supporting the Cities for CEDAW Initiative to implement the principles at the local level, regardless of Federal support.

“With all the current turmoil occurring in our communities, cities must step up and be the harbingers of change and justice for all. A CEDAW ordinance for Milpitas affirms that we want all of our women and girls to be protected, to have access to critical healthcare, and to have the same educational and entrepreneurial opportunities as men. We are taking a stand for equity and updating our policies to reflect the values of Milpitanians. We are truly making a difference with this first step,” says Councilmember Karina Dominguez, who introduced the ordinance.

Local adherence to the principles of CEDAW will promote equal access to and equity in health care, employment, economic development, and educational opportunities for women and girls and will address the continuing critical problem of violence against women and girls.

“I am very pleased to support this ordinance to help eliminate discrimination. Discrimination in all its forms, whether based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or anything else does not have a home in Milpitas,” says Councilmember Anthony Phan.

By introducing the CEDAW principles in Ordinance 306, the City Council also directed the establishment of a community Task Force to implement the principles of CEDAW in the Milpitas community at large. The Ordinance will be adopted on August 4 and will take effect 30 days after the adoption. Within 30 days of the effective date of the Ordinance, the community Task Force shall include at least six members, including a staff liaison, a City Council liaison, a youth liaison from the club “Girl UP” from Milpitas High School (selected by members of the club to represent youth in the community), and members with subject-matter expertise in the areas of Economic Development, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Healthcare.

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