

R-8

Date:

July 14, 2015

To:

Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the City Council

From:

Stacy Mungo, Councilwoman, Fifth District MY

Suja Lowenthal, Vice Mayor, Second District

Lena Gonzalez, Councilwoman, First District & Suzie Price, Councilwoman, Third District

Subject:

Agenda Item: Resolution in Support of Women's Equality Day

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to request the City Attorney to draft a resolution in support of "Women's Equality Day," on August 26, 2015, commemorating the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

BACKGROUND

In 1971, Congress passed a Joint Resolution declaring August 26 of each year Women's Equality Day. This year marks the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, extending the right to vote to women. This courageous campaign, which formally began with the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, spanned seventy-two (72) years and was carried out by tens of thousands of persistent women and men.

The women's suffrage amendment was introduced for the first time to Congress on January 10, 1878. It was re-submitted numerous times until finally receiving approval from both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate in June 1919. By a one-vote margin, the State of Tennessee approved the amendment in August 1920, providing the final vote needed for ratification. The amendment officially became law on August 26, 1920.

Today, workplaces, libraries, civic organizations, government bodies, and public facilities participate in Women's Equality Day with special programs, displays, and other activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.