

September 7, 2021

To: Mayor Garcia and Long Beach City Councilmembers

NCJW Greater Long Beach and West Orange County strongly supports the establishment of a Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. The proposal before the Long Beach City Council to report back in 90 days with the Plan for creating the Commission is a welcome first step.

This seems like right timing! Long Beach can be part of the larger effort that is growing throughout California. The California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls recently announced that the state budget includes additional funding of 7.9 million dollars to facilitate a statewide Women's Recovery Response in the wake of COVID-19. By joining the existing network of local commissions, Long Beach will be part of building a more direct system of support for women.

From the State Commission we have learned the following facts. Nationally, women have suffered most of the pandemic-related job losses:

- Since February 2020, women have lost over 5.3 million net jobs, and account for 53.8% of overall net job loss since the start of the crisis. Since the onset of the pandemic 2.5 million women have left the workforce as compared to 1.8 million men.
- Nearly 50% of Black and Latinx households reported difficulty paying for usual expenses in 2020 according to a survey by the California Budget and Policy Center. COVID-19 has made existing gender inequities worse, and women of color face compounded risks.

We look forward to the development of the Commission, and would be pleased to be involved in the process as the proposal moves forward. NCJW was created to improve the lives of women and children. In the past year, we have created an "Economic Justice" committee, to support our Advocacy efforts, chaired by Dr. Lisa Raufman. In synergy with the creation of the Commission, NCJW will be hosting a webinar in February, 2022 on how the pandemic has affected working women with a focus on job loss, pay equity and childcare needs. We look forward to including someone from the Long Beach Commission on the Status of Women and Girls on our panel!

Sincerely,  
*Barbara Shipnuck*,  
President, NCJW GLB & WOC  
*Lisa Raufman*,  
Economic Justice Chair, NCJW GLB & WOC

*National Council of Jewish Women is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.*

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