

CITY OF LONG BEACH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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August 9, 2021

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Recommendations regarding Establishing a Commission on Women & Girls

Honorable Mayor Garcia, Members of Long Beach City Council, and Tom Modica, City Manager

The mission of the Human Relations Commission is to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster mutual understanding and respect for all, with a vision that Long Beach is a just and equitable community, free of discrimination and violence, where all people are valued and have the resources to reach their full potential. It is in this context that the Human Relations Commission submits this recommendation with a hope that our city continues to embrace values of justice, equity, respect and dignity for all its residents.

The Human Relations Commission unanimously supports the creation of a Commission on Women and Girls in the City of Long Beach. Over the last year as the Human Relations Commission (HRC) engaged community and stakeholders in a series of discussions around the modernization of the HRC, we heard the need for a dedicated commission to focus on elevating policy recommendations that address the unique experiences and challenges facing women and girls in our city.

A Long Beach Commission for Women & Girls, working intersectionally and inclusively, would promote equality and justice for all women and girls; cis, trans and those who identify as female, focusing on economic equity, educational equity, access to health care including reproductive choice, violence against women and other key issues identified by the Commission as significantly affecting women and girls.

The California Women's Commission has recognized the overwhelming circumstances that women face and the extraordinary compounding demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and wage inequality. They have asked California cities to join Berkeley, Carson, Compton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Monica and West Hollywood in establishing a Commission for Women & Girls.

The City of Long Beach is one of the primary leaders in California in setting a standard for inclusion, diversity, equity, respect and full inclusivity. There is an abundance of expertise on

women and girls in Long Beach and as such, appointing women from every district assures the city of a brilliant Commission for Women & Girls working on their behalf. Uplifting the lives of women and girls, uplifts everyone.

The Long Beach Human Relations Commission is presenting this letter of recommendation to the Mayor and City Council to establish the Long Beach Commission for Women & Girls and recommend to begin with a series of listening sessions with women and girls in the city to gain *additional feedback on the needs of women and girls that the Commission could address*. The Human Relations Commission is committed to supporting the implementation of the listening sessions.

It has been 46 years since the Long Beach City Council was first asked to establish a Women's Commission. From an article in the local paper, November 5, 1975, Councilwoman Renee B Simon proposed a Women's Commission. Her motion died as she was unable to get a second to her motion. "I am absolutely dumbfounded," Mrs. Simon declared "and I'm sure the women in Long Beach will be equally shocked." Today, let us get that second and make it unanimous.

Respectfully,

Alyssa Gutierrez, Chair
Human Relations Commission