

HRC to Council for Women's Commission, Draft letter

Dear Mayor and Members of the Long Beach City Council,

The Human Relations Commission members are some of the brightest and engaged residents in Long Beach. Changing with needs of the community, addressing concerns and celebrating accomplishments is easily embraced. However, we have to admit to properly research, measure situations and make recommendations regarding Long Beach Human Relations is a task far beyond any single commission. Weighing the ever-widening intersections of our diverse city deserved a hard object look and having taken the time, assessing our vision, and inviting expert speakers, we are here to recommend the establishment of a Long Beach Women's Commission.

A Long Beach Women's Commission, working intersectionally and inclusively, would promote equality and justice for all women and girls 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. There is an abundance of expertise on women and girls in Long Beach. To appoint women from every district assures the city of a brilliant Women's Commission working on their behalf. Uplifting the lives of women and girls uplifts everyone.

The California Women's Commission has recognized the overwhelming circumstances that women face and the extraordinary compounding demands of covid. They have asked California cities to join Berkeley, Carson, Compton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Monica and West Hollywood in establishing a Women's Commission. The City of Long Beach is clearly one of the primary leaders in California in setting a standard for inclusion, diversity, equity, respect and full inclusivity. It is time to have a Long Beach Women's Commission.

The Long Beach Human Relations Commission is presenting this letter of recommendation to the Mayor and City Council to establish the Long Beach Women's Commission, advocating for women and girls.

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." Let us get that second and make it unanimous.