

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2018-022

Supporting the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Girls, Prompting the Health and Safety of Women and Girls, and supporting their Being Afforded Equal Academic, Economic, Social, Cultural and Business Opportunities in the City of Columbia; Expressing Support for Individual Cities Passing Resolutions and Ordinances to Implement the Principles of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Local Level

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on December 18, 1979 became an international treaty on September 3, 1981, and 187 United Nations member nations have agreed to be bound by CEDAW's provisions. The United States is one of only six countries that have not ratified CEDAW, never having been brought to the Senate floor for a vote; and,

WHEREAS, CEDAW defines discrimination and provides a practical blueprint to promote human rights and open opportunities for women and girls in all areas of society. The empowerment of women is central to building democratic, peaceful and prosperous societies; and,

WHEREAS, although women in this country have made gains in the struggle to eradicate discrimination, much more needs to be accomplished. CEDAW provides an opportunity for dialogue on how to address persistent gaps in women's full equality, particularly regarding closing the pay gap, reducing domestic violence and stopping trafficking; and,

WHEREAS, Cities for CEDAW was launched at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014. The Cities for CEDAW campaign is a grassroots effort that provides tools and leadership to empower local women's organizations and municipalities and effectively initiate CEDAW within their respective localities; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbia City Council desires that women and girls who live in the City of Columbia enjoy all the rights, privileges and remedies that are bestowed on all people in the United States, no matter their race, national origin, gender or religious belief, and declares that Columbia, South Carolina is a city that shall not tolerate discrimination against women or girls, or violence perpetrated against them in any form; and,

WHEREAS, City government has a n appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women in communities as universal norms and to serve as guide for public policy; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, South Carolina this 20th day of March, 2018 as follows:

Section I. That the City Council of the City of Columbia supports the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, promoting the health and safety of women and girls, and supporting their being afforded equal academic, economic, social cultural and business opportunities in the City of Columbia.

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Section 2. That the City Council of the City of Columbia hereby expresses support for the Cities for CEDAW initiative and their support for individual cities and counties passing resolutions and ordinances to implement the principles of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) at the local level.

Requested by:

Councilmember Devine



Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager *acting City Manager*

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 3/20/2018

Final Reading: 3/20/2018