

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE “CITIES FOR CEDAW” CAMPAIGN TO  
PROMOTE THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES TO IMPLEMENT  
THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL  
FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN  
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

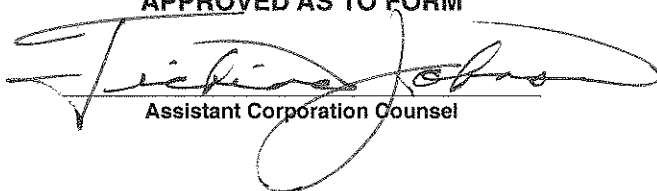
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SEP 23 2015
- Whereas,** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (hereinafter “CEDAW” or “the Convention”) is an international treaty that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979. Described as an international “Bill of Rights” for women, CEDAW was ratified on September 3, 1981 and one hundred and eighty-nine (189) UN member nations have agreed to be bound by its provisions; and
- Whereas,** Although women have made gains in the struggle for equality in many fields, much more needs to be accomplished to fully eradicate discrimination based on gender and to achieve one of the most basic human rights—equality; and
- Whereas,** The City of Mount Vernon is 4.4 square miles and is home to approximately 67,292 residents, making it the 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in New York State, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most densely populated city in New York State and the 11<sup>th</sup> most densely populated city in the United States; and
- Whereas,** According to the 2010 US Census, females make up 54.6% of the City of Mount Vernon’s population. With a determination to ensure that these women and girls who live in the City of Mount Vernon enjoy all the rights and privileges and remedies that are bestowed on all people in the US, regardless of race, national origin, gender or religious belief, and with a purpose to proclaim worldwide that Mount Vernon is a city within which women can thrive and a city that will not tolerate discrimination against women and girls or violence perpetrated against them in any form, by any hand; and
- Whereas,** CEDAW provides a framework for governments and communities to examine their policies and practices in relation to women and girls and to rectify discrimination based on gender; and
- Whereas,** City governments have an appropriate and legitimate role in serving as guides for public policy and affirming the importance of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women in local communities. Given the city’s location within the New York City Region and its transportation infrastructure, Mount Vernon is extremely accessible to all areas of the New York Metropolitan Region and is, therefore, uniquely situated to shed influence in this important policy area; and
- Whereas,** A resolution is the first step towards adopting a future ordinance that would implement Article 3 of the Convention on the local level by calling for the City of Mount Vernon to “take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men”; and
- Whereas,** A resolution is also a first step towards adopting a future ordinance that would implement Article 5 of the Convention on the local level by calling for the City of Mount Vernon to “take all appropriate measures . . . [t]o modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women”; and
- Whereas,** Such “appropriate measures” may include charging the City’s Human Rights Commission with the task of implementing CEDAW principles on the local level. Alternatively, the City may establish a separate Task Force on The Status of Women which would be charged with the task of implementing CEDAW principles on the local level. Such task force would serve the City in an advisory capacity and would host annual, semi-annual or quarterly educational forums to raise awareness; change culture; promote the economic standing of women; promote a measurable difference in public safety, budgetary allocations and employment as those issues relate to women; activate the women’s community; and release women’s full potential at all levels; NOW THEREFORE BE IT,
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**Resolved,**

That the City Council is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, to promoting the health and safety of women and girls, and to affording them equal academic, economic, social, cultural, political, and business opportunities in the Great City of Mount Vernon. This Resolution shall take effect upon passage and approval.

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SEP 23 2015

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**  
  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

  
Councilperson

**THIS ORDINANCE  
ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL**  
  
President

**ATTEST**  
  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVED**  
Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED**  
SEP 25 2015  
Date  
  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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