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A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 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 TAMPA; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CITIES FOR CEDAW INITIATIVE AND 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; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 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 Tampa City Council desires that women and girls who live in the City of Tampa 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 Tampa, Florida, 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 an 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 CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Tampa 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 Tampa.

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Section 2. That the City Council of the City of Tampa 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.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA,
ON DECEMBER 3, 2015.

ATTEST:


SHIRLEY FOXX-KNOWLES
CITY CLERK


FRANK REDDICK
CHAIRMAN, TAMPA CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARTIN SHELBY
CITY COUNCIL ATTORNEY