

NO. 2015-614

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 ST. PETERSBURG; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CITIES FOR CEDAW INITIATIVE; AND 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 St. Petersburg City Council desires that women and girls who live in the City of St. Petersburg 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

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 a guide for public policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida that the City Council hereby 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 St. Petersburg.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council hereby expresses support for the Cities for CEDAW initiative.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 17th day of December, 2015.

  
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Charles Gerdes, Chair-Councilmember  
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST:   
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Chan Srinivasa, City Clerk

