

Dear Honorable Councilmember,

Our commission continues to be excited and passionate about our work for our fellow residents. As a reminder, these monthly one-page letters will serve as executive summaries of our official minutes and your appointed commissioner may of course happily share additional insights.

Highlights from the September Commission Meeting

Note, five of our 11 commissioners had births/deaths/major travel in their families in October, so we did not have quorum for our October meeting. As of writing, Council has not filled the D6 position that has been vacant since June.

1. **Women's Bill of Rights:** Back in April, the Human Services Commission approved a plan for how to choose which city departments, policies, and programs will undergo a gender-analysis survey. It included gathering both qualitative and quantitative community input on this important decision.
 1. *Qualitatively*, we have received dozens of submissions from community members and advocates highlighting departments which they believe need to be reviewed for gender-bias.
 2. *Quantitatively*, we designed a three question, 177 word survey and lined-up community organizations eager to distribute it. The City Manager's office has been working to translate that survey into Vietnamese and Spanish for the past six months. At the September meeting, we were informed the City Attorney also needed to review our survey before we could begin outreach. As we approach the one-year anniversary of the Women's Bill of Rights' passage, we are disappointed to be unable to provide a recommendation of which city departments, policies, and programs should be reviewed, as we must complete our outreach to the community. We are ready to begin immediately, as soon as we receive the necessary approvals.
 3. In October, the City Manager's office requested that the commission write a Request for Information to be sent out in January; the commission will be reviewing this request in our November meeting. This is the City Manager's response to the Mayor' June Budget Message, where Mayor Liccardo asked whether the required gender analysis survey can be done using existing resources. Given that the City Manager's office has not been able to translate a three question survey using existing resources given six months to do it, we have concerns about their capacity to conduct an independent gender analysis of the city departments, policies, or programs we select without additional resources, so we are glad they are laying the groundwork to make another budget request in 2019.
2. **Ending Domestic Violence:** Commissioner Demers of D2 (the domestic violence service provider representative on the commission) began reaching out to the relevant stakeholders to evaluate the extent to which the city has made progress on the recommendations of the 2017 Santa Clara County Blue Ribbon Intimate Partner Violence Report.
3. **Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities:** Our two ad hoc committees focused on issues impacting this population are moving forward and expect to deliver complete reports on their findings in Feb.

Feedback on Upcoming and Recent Council Agenda Items

1. We were concerned that Chief Garcia's six page memo, "Subject: City Council Policy Priority #10: Personal Care Business Compliance Initiative" (9/20/18) included was no mention of any labor trafficking assessment conducted by SJPD at the 191 identified illicit massage businesses. It concerns us that the Vice unit might be continuing the type of "sting" operation which resulted in the Ruiz settlement in the amount of \$125,000 (File: 18-1388). Ending human trafficking requires a survivor-centric model, with survivors receiving access to restorative services; nothing in this memo indicates this was either SJPD's approach or the outcome of their strategy (File: 18-1381).

2. We strongly support council's resolution opposing the Public Charge rule released by the Department of Homeland Security and published in the Federal Registrar on October 10, 2018 (File: 18-1419).
3. We recommend strengthening the privacy and civil liberty protections in the Automated License Plate Recognition Policy (File: 18-1438). For example, in this line: "The City will not use ALPR Technology for the purpose of monitoring individual activities that are otherwise protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution." It is not clear how the city would respond if the current administration requested the license plate data from a protest where attendees parked on city property; the request would be a clear effort to chill speech as this administration has in the past, but without a clear policy on deleting this tracking information, a city employee might share the information.¹
4. Our colleagues on the Housing and Committee Development Committee shared a letter in September in support of increasing family-sized affordable housing in San José as part of a broad and comprehensive response to the affordable housing crisis; because access to housing impacts a number of human rights, we wish to add our support for this letter as well.

Respectfully and in-service,



Jessica Dickinson Goodman
Chair,
The San José Human Services Commission

¹ "Government seeks to unmask Trump dissident on Twitter, lawsuit reveals," *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/apr/06/twitter-lawsuit-anonymous-account-trump-alt-uscis> (4/6/17)