



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT**

**DATE:** May 25, 2022

Approved

Date

5/25/2022

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Girls and Women Empowerment Conference

Amount of City Funding Required: \$50,000

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): N/A

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

Our current system criminalizes girls, especially girls of color, who have been victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. In order to end the sexual abuse to prison pipeline for marginalized girls, we must keep our community safe from sexual assault, as well as ensure that all girls and women have an alternative path to empowerment. This sense of empowerment can be homegrown in our own backyard in District 8 as a means of prevention education and capacity building of girls and women.

My colleagues and I have sounded the alarm on the rising rates of gender-based violence and we can no longer afford to look the other way when we know that most survivors of sexual violence, which includes sexual assault and child sexual/abuse, are girls between the ages of 7-17 years old. We need to meet the dedication and commitment we've made to update survivor-centered policies in our San José Police Department with an investment in recreational and empowerment programming to support young girls and prevent them from entering a vicious and intersectional cycle of gender-based violence.

Through funding and supporting a Girls and Women Empowerment Conference in District 8, we can create healing and empowering spaces for girls/youth, young women, and professional women. These recreational and empowerment programs may be developed in partnership alongside key stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Evergreen Valley College Womyn's Gender Equity Center, Californians for Justice, and the County's Office of Gender Based Violence Prevention and Office of Women's Policy.

This budget document would direct the City Manager to grant funds to these partners towards a successful outcome, as they lead the development of this Conference in collaboration with the District 8 Council Office. Funds would be used to supplement the contributions of partners – contributions that would include the free use of facilities and support for planning, recruitment of speakers, and attendee outreach. Vtally, the partnership with grass-roots organizations like Californians for Justice creates an opportunity to extend outreach and awareness for at risk girls and young women to find opportunities to participate, learn, and lead this effort.

**Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

**Department or Organization Contact**

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

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