



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

RECEIVED
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK

2018 NOV 15 AM 9:06

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, District 5
COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Status of Women in San Antonio
DATE: Thursday, November 15, 2018

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

With the passing of the Resolution on Women's Equity reaffirming the commitment of the City of San Antonio to improve the status of women I ask that a report establishing the status of women in the city be created.

Brief Background

Gender equality is a topic of international, national, statewide and local concern. The conversation of how to proceed, however, cannot begin without an understanding of the status of women at various levels.

Internationally, the state of women has improved, though it remains concerning. The United Nations has identified abuse as a major issue facing women and girls globally as well as early marriage before the age of 18. In addition, the low levels of political representation in law-making bodies were among the reasons the United Nations listed gender equality as one of its five sustainable development goals. Out of 144 nations, the United States is ranked 44th in gender parity.

Noting the importance of gender equality, the World Economic Forum states that at the current rate, it will take 217 years before the global income gap between men and women is eradicated. Further, a group of researchers from universities in the United States, Finland and Qatar examined the professional gap in 20 United States Metropolitan areas, including San Antonio. The authors found that in general, metropolitan areas tend to be gender neutral; however, San Antonio favored male employment (Haranko et. al, 2018).

According to research conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, women in the State of Texas hold only 19% of seats in the state legislature, and if current salary trends continue, will not see equal pay until the year 2047. There are also significant income disparities at the intersection of race and gender. Hispanic women on average earn about \$10,000 less than African American Women, about \$17,000 less than White women, and \$20,000 less than Asian American women. White women earn an average salary of \$42,000 annually, Hispanic women earn \$25,891 annually, African American women earn \$34,498 annually and Asian American women earn \$45,568 a year.



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

In Texas 71% of non-elderly women have health insurance, the lowest percentage in the United States. The biggest killer of women in the United States is Heart Disease. Of the 50 states and Washington D.C., Texas ranks 29th with a mortality rate of 136.9 per 100,000 deaths.

Given this information, a focused examination on the status of women in San Antonio is necessary to better address issues that residents of San Antonio face and will continue to face as we move forward to realize our SA2020 vision. Therefore, I ask that city staff create a report on the status of women that contains the following:

- Demographics
- Health and Wellbeing
 - Heart disease, diabetes rates, breast and lung cancer, and mental health statistics
- Violence and Safety
 - Sexual assault, domestic violence reports
- Political Participation
 - Number of women who have served in the following capacities
 - Mayor, City Council, commissions and boards
- Economic Opportunities
 - Employment and programs to help with employment, number of businesses owned by women, loans that are received by women, number of contracts given to female owned businesses





All reports should examine the effects of race on gender to create a nuanced understanding of outcomes in all above-mentioned categories.

Submitted for Council consideration by:



Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, District 5

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

		District
1.		<u>3</u>
2.		<u>7</u>
3.		<u>8</u>
4.		<u>4</u>

RECEIVED
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK
2018 NOV 15 AM 9:05