



DATE: May 23, 2017

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: City Manager's Office

TITLE: **Equitable Communities Resolution**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Reaffirming the City's Commitment to a Diverse, Supportive, Inclusive Community and to Protecting the Constitutional Rights of Its Residents, to be read in title only, further reading waived, recommended by the Cities Association of Santa Clara County (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND

The Cities Association of Santa Clara County was formed in 1990 to represent the mutual interests of the diverse 15 cities of Santa Clara County. Each city appoints a City Councilmember to the Board of Directors which meets monthly 10 months of the year. In its role as an advocate for the Santa Clara County cities, the Board of Directors: (1) reviews, studies, and develops consensus positions and recommendations on issues of interest to Santa Clara County cities; (2) develops a common agenda for Santa Clara County cities; (3) serves as a source of education, information, and networking for officials from all cities in Santa Clara County; (4) provides a forum for non-city individuals, organizations, and the private sector to address items of interest to Santa Clara County cities; (5) monitors legislative activities at the State and Federal level through its Legislative Action Committee; and (6) serves as the City Selection Committee pursuant to Government Code Section 50270, *et seq.*, making appointments to regional and local bodies as provided by law.

The Board of Directors annually adopts priorities of mutual interests to cities in Santa Clara County. The 2017 annual priorities include affordable housing and homelessness, age-friendly communities, Countywide tax regulations, equitable communities, marijuana regulation and Best Practices, Regional Housing Needs Allocation subregion option, and transportation (Attachment 2).

ANALYSIS

Equitable communities was chosen as one of the 2017 Cities Association annual priorities. The purpose of this priority is to develop actions or recommendations that membership cities could consider for adoption that pledge to protect minority constituents regardless of race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, and advance member cities' commitment to safety and equity across communities in the wake of the Federal government's new policies on immigration enforcement.

A Subcommittee was formed to review and compile a matrix of existing regional, State, and Federal actions (Attachment 3), and to develop a draft resolution that outlines common goals and principles for protecting vulnerable populations that each member city could adopt.

The Subcommittee presented its work and draft resolution at the April 2017 Board meeting, and following review and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the distribution of the draft resolution to member cities for consideration of adoption.

The draft resolution affirms the City's commitment to a diverse, supportive, inclusive community and to protecting the constitutional rights of its residents, rejecting bigotry, racism, nativism, misogyny, and homophobia, and states the City's intent to oppose any attempts to undermine the safety, security, and rights of members within the community and that the City will work proactively to ensure the rights and privileges of everyone in the City, regardless of religion, country of birth, immigration status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

At its February 27 Study Session, the City Council identified protecting vulnerable populations as a Major Goal for Fiscal Year 2017-18 through Fiscal Year 2018-19, and on May 16, approved it and a work plan project list that includes studying and providing policy recommendations on an anti-registry policy, becoming a sanctuary city and adopting a Freedom City Policy. Additionally, in December 2016, the City Council approved the Human Relations Commission's recommendation to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishing Mountain View as a Human Rights City.

Concurrently, the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs' Association issued a statement in March 2017 affirming its support for immigrants' rights and is working on developing a common policy that addresses immigration enforcement. This draft resolution is consistent with the City's adopted policies, but does not specify action or additional efforts upon adoption.

To date, the cities of Gilroy, Los Altos, and Palo Alto have adopted resolutions similar to the Equitable Cities resolution, and several other cities have expressed an interest to consider the adoption of the Cities Association recommended resolution within the next couple of months.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impacts of these recommendations are unknown at this time.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not adopt the Equitable Communities resolution.
2. Modify and adopt the resolution.
3. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting and copy to the Cities Association.

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CG-ASR/7/CAM
608-05-23-17CR-E

- Attachments:
1. Resolution
 2. [2017 Adopted Priorities](#)
 3. Equitable Communities: Informational Report on Status of Regional, State, and Federal Actions