TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

ATTN: POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: JUNE 24, 2002 CMR: 310:02

SUBJECT: HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION (CEDAW)

RECOMMENDATION
Staff is forwarding the City of Palo Alto’s Human Relations Commission’s (HRC) request that the City Council direct the Policy and Services Committee to review and recommend that Council approve the adoption of a resolution in support of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) also known as The Convention.

BACKGROUND
On April 12, 2001, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) discussed The Convention during its regular monthly meeting. The Commissioners heard testimony from a number of Palo Alto residents requesting that the City should go on record in support of The Convention as other cities have done. The HRC was given a copy of the City of San Diego’s Resolution of Support. At its next scheduled meeting on May 10, 2001 and after further discussion, the HRC unanimously passed a motion recommending to the City Council that the City adopt a resolution similar to the resolution adopted by the City of San Diego. The San Diego Resolution is Attachment One.

DISCUSSION
The Convention, also known as the International Bill of Rights for Women, was written by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979.
The Convention affirms fundamental human rights and equal right of men and women. The Convention obligates countries that have ratified it to take action to ensure the full development and advancement of women in the following areas:
The Convention states that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields. The full text of The Convention is attached as Attachment One.

Staff is forwarding the request of the HRC to be placed on the Council consent agenda directing the Policy and Services Committee to review and recommend that the Council adopt a resolution in support of The Convention.

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment One: Text of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Attachment Two: City of San Diego Resolution

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