



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Consideration of Resolution in Support of Reproductive Freedom

1. Resolution in Support of Reproductive Freedom

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for March 22, 2022 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A resolution to support reproductive freedom is being presented at the request of Council Member Brotman in response to legislative efforts in states around the country that are attempting to make abortions illegal.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Safe & Healthy Community: Support of this resolution would support maintaining the ability for those who can become pregnant the ability to make health care decisions that are in their best interest.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction on a resolution in support of reproductive freedom.

BACKGROUND

At the January 25, 2022 City Council meeting, Council Member Brotman requested the Council's support to bring forward a resolution in support of reproductive freedom. This resolution is in response to legislative efforts in states around the country that are attempting to make abortions illegal.

With the U.S. Supreme Court expected to rule on a case challenging *Roe v. Wade* this June, putting the constitutional right to bodily autonomy at risk for millions of people, Planned Parenthood Advocates is reaching out to cities to pass a resolution to uphold every person's right to self-determination and dignity.

ANALYSIS

This resolution in support of Glendale as a "Reproductive Freedom City" is a symbolic gesture for the City of Glendale to declare its commitment to protecting access to safe, high-quality reproductive health care, including abortion. Restrictions and bans that violate reproductive freedom disproportionately impact populations that already face barriers to care: people of color, people with low incomes, immigrants, and young people.

In Los Angeles County, maternal mortality rates among Black women are over four times higher than rates for women overall¹. This rate is independent of age, education, socioeconomic status, or the number of children they have had. Across the United States, Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native women are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women². A vast majority of maternal deaths are unrelated to any preexisting medical condition, and considered low-risk pregnancies. Given that pregnancies pose a risk to women's health, particularly women of color, state initiatives to restrict abortions could lead to more deaths, especially among people of color.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

¹ Office of Women's Health and Office of Assessment & Epidemiology. (2017). *Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County: Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Poverty Level*, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh/docs/DataReport/2017-HealthIndicatorsforWomeninLACounty.pdf>

² Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Repot* 2019;68:762–765. DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6835a3external icon](http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6835a3external%20icon).

Planned Parenthood Advocates provided a recent statewide poll conducted by David Binder Research indicating that Californians strongly support protecting the right to abortion. The public opinion research summary provided by David Binder Research has been included as Exhibit 1 of this report.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This matter is exempt from CEQA as there is no reasonable likelihood it will result in a significant impact to the environment.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve a resolution in support of reproductive freedom, as presented.

Alternative 2: Amend the resolution in support of reproductive freedom prior to approval.

Alternative 3: Take no action on this item.

Alternative 4: Provide any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Christine Powers, Senior Executive Analyst

Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

California Likely Voter Survey Public Opinion Research Summary