

Dear Honorable Councilmember,

It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the Human Services Commission for the City of San José for the past 12 months. My fellow commissioners are dedicated, caring, brilliant members of the community working hard to fulfill our mission to "implement the San José Human Rights Policy and to develop programs promoting the fulfillment of human rights in the City."

Unfortunately, we have not met since January 2019 because City Council and the Clerk's Office did not fill vacant seats in District 1, District 4, District 6, District 8, District 10, and the Mayor's seat. These persistent vacancies left us with no margin for quorum. When some of our commissioners faced the normal, everyday challenges coming to meetings that can be expected of a volunteer body, we found ourselves unable to meet for six months.

Beginning in December 2018, our commissioners recruited aggressively from our own networks to try to sustain our commission, but found that the Clerk's Office had locked access to the online application form for the first two months of the year. In March, I personally called every councilmember's office with a vacant seat to request they fill their seats; this netted nine applications. And yet, the seats remained unfilled for another five months.

This profound lack of support from the city for our work undermined our ability to implement the city's human rights policy. Below were the workplan topics Council had approved last year that we were unable to make meaningful progress on, because of that lack of support:

1. Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities
2. Protecting Environmental Sustainability Rights
3. Protecting Immigrants Rights

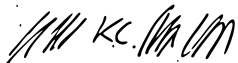
4. Protecting Children's Rights
5. Ending Human Trafficking
6. Protecting the Rights of Children with Disabilities

We were able to make progress on the following areas, by the outstanding efforts of our commissioners and staff from the City Manager's office:

1. **Ending Domestic Violence:** Commissioner Chris Demers evaluated the city's response to Santa Clara County's 2017 Blue Ribbon Report on Interpersonal Violence and is writing a report for the city.
2. **Promoting Disability Culture:** Commissioner Tiffany Maciel has been organizing a screening of *The Kids We Lose* film.
3. **Women's Bill of Rights:** Chair Dickinson Goodman drafted a RFI to help the city find a consultant to implement the gender analysis survey. The city then revised and released the RFI and received several proposals. The Mayor's June budget included \$50,000 for this survey.

I hope to work closely with Council in 2019 - 2020 ensuring the commission has the membership and support necessary to enable us to carry out the work for which we were appointed.

Respectfully and in-service,



Jessica Dickinson Goodman

Chair,

The San José Human Services Commission