

From: **Michael Vargas** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 11:42 AM
Subject: Message in Support of Trans Inclusion in the Women's Bill of Rights
To: kiara.arreola@sanjoseca.gov <kiara.arreola@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Ron Gardner <[REDACTED]>, Bard Williams <[REDACTED]>

Dear Ms. Arreola,

My name is Michael Vargas and I am the Policy Chair for the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley. I'm writing to you today in support of the proposal currently being considered by the San Jose Human Services Commission to include trans-inclusive language in the Women's Bill of Rights ordinance.

Transgender people are an essential part of our business community in San Jose and the Silicon Valley region. Just this past weekend, at our annual board retreat, the board of the Rainbow Chamber was treated to a presentation on diversity and inclusion in professional development by one of our local transgender entrepreneurs, Gina Grahame, and it was one of the best presentations I've seen in a long time. Yet, these inspiring and innovative members of our community are subject to both intentional and unintentional discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, gender identity, or gender expression. And so many of our citizens are denied their valuable contributions because of this exclusion.

We hope that you will convey our support for trans inclusive amendments to the Women's Bill of Rights to Councilwoman Carrasco. We hope that she will take up this cause and ensure that this inclusive language makes its way into the Women's Bill of Rights ordinance so that all of San Jose's residents can be free from discrimination based on gender and gender identity.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel don't hesitate to reach out to myself or the President of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley, Mr. Ron Gardner ([REDACTED]).

Sincerely,
Michael Vargas