February 15, 2019

Nathalie Pouvrez

Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear Ms. Pouvrez,

On behalf of a broad coalition of civil society organizations, academic institutions, and government offices and agencies throughout Santa Clara County in California, United States, please find a joint response to your letter of December 13, 2018, in which you request input for the report required under Human Rights Council resolution 39/7 on Local Governments and Human Rights.

This joint submission highlights the following actions taken by local city and county governments in and within the County of Santa Clara (SCC) to promote and protect human rights:

1. Adoption of a “Human Rights City” resolution by the Mountain View city council in December of 2017, followed by the implementation of a pilot program that seeks to apply a human rights lens to city projects.

2. Adoption of a CEDAW ordinance in December of 2017 and subsequent creation of a CEDAW Task Force by the Board of Supervisors of the county.

3. Publication in 2018 of an official report that addresses homelessness in the county through a gender and human right lens.

4. Adoption in 2018 of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors of SCC recognizing December 10th as “Human Rights Day” and the county as a “Human Rights County”.

5. Development of the capacity of local Human Rights Commissions to analyze and report on the human rights implications of local policies or practices, including the use of pepper spray on juveniles in detention, living wage policies, and county jail conditions.

All of these actions have been developed in coordination between several partners, in particular the Board of Supervisors of SCC, the Office of Women’s Policy of SCC, the Human Rights Commission of SCC, the Commission on the Status of Women of SCC, the Human Rights Collaborative at San Jose State University, and the International Human Rights Clinic at Santa Clara University.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

In solidarity,

Francisco Rivera

In solidarity,

Francisco J. Rivera Juaristi

Director - International Human Rights Clinic

Associate Clinical Professor of Law

Santa Clara University School of Law

500 El Camino Real

Santa Clara, CA 95053

(408) 554-4770

FJRivera@scu.edu