CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 20-69

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, (1) ANNOUNCING ITS COMMITMENT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE BY CALLING FOR AN “18 NO EXCEPTIONS” LAW; AND (2) AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND AUTHORIZED CITY PERSONNEL TO PUBLISH ON THE CITY’S WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS NECESSARY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

WHEREAS, each year minors are coerced and forced into marriages in cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, marriage license records from a sample of state health departments across the country reveal that, in a 15-year period between 2000 and 2015, well more than 200,000 minors were married in the United States, mostly girls married to adult men; and

WHEREAS, Child Marriage, a formal marriage or informal union where one or both parties is under the age of 18, is defined as a human rights abuse by the Department of State, UNICEF and Human Rights Watch; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the United Nations, the United States adopted the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including a commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development goals, including Goal 5 to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” and specifically target 5.3: “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.”; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association has called for an end to Child Marriage stating “Child marriage is associated with higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, early pregnancies, divorce, and intimate partner violence than women married at age 21.”; and

WHEREAS, the detrimental effects of Child Marriage are many, including but not limited to, an adverse effect on the child’s health, education, and employment opportunities as proven by UN Women® and the World Bank; and

WHEREAS, minors in unwanted or abusive marriages suffer social isolation from their support networks like school, friends and family, which contributes to their poor mental health; and

WHEREAS, young women and girls ages 16-19 face intimate partner violence victimization rates almost three times the national average; and
WHEREAS, the majority (70%-80%) of Child Marriages end in divorce; and

WHEREAS, minors who marry early are more likely to “discontinue their formal educations prematurely, earn low wages, and live in poverty.” Girls who marry early are fifty percent more likely to drop out of high school and four times less likely to graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, a minor’s understanding of their legal rights and access to practical resources to avoid or abandon an unwanted or abusive marriage are far more limited than adult men and women may have; and

WHEREAS, in the state of California, there is no minimum age to marry and no restrictions on the age differences between the two parties (e.g., between adult men and minor girls); and

WHEREAS, Child Marriage in the United States is not confined to any religious or cultural group. American children of all backgrounds are at risk in California cities because the law permits marriage before the age of majority; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming evidence of adverse effects on the minor’s wellbeing and the remaining risk of abusive relationships with older men calls for an “End Child Marriage Under 18 No Exceptions” law; and

WHEREAS, the states of Delaware, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey already passed laws ending Child Marriage for all minors, without exception; and

WHEREAS, the City of Irvine has determined that it is a moral imperative and undeniably in the best public interest of the City to protect all minors from Child Marriage; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Irvine as follows:

1. The above recitals are hereby adopted by the City Council of the City of Irvine.
2. The City Council hereby calls on the California State Legislature to introduce and pass legislation to “End Child Marriage Under 18, No Exceptions”.
3. The City Council hereby calls on other California municipalities, California Counties, and County Clerk-Recorders to pass resolutions showing their commitment to end Child Marriage.
4. The City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager and authorized city personnel to publish on the city’s website educational information regarding opposing the practice of Child Marriage. In so far as is necessary, the city manager and city staff shall collaborate with human rights nonprofits and organizations specializing in the aforementioned cause to produce such educational content.
5. The City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager and authorized city personnel to publish on the city’s social media platforms the aforementioned content.

6. The City Council hereby authorizes and directs that the City Manager and authorized city personnel shall make known to city residents the availability of the letter-writing campaign, to “End Child Marriage Under 18, No Exceptions” in California sponsored by Global Hope 365.

7. This resolution shall take effect from and after its date of adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Irvine at a regular meeting held on the 11th day of August, 2020.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) SS
CITY OF IRVINE )

I, MOLLY M. PERRY, City Clerk of the City of Irvine, HEREBY DO CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Irvine, held on the 11th day of August, 2020.

AYES: 5 COUNCILMEMBERS: Carroll, Fox, Khan, Kuo, and Shea

NOES: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE