

MARCH FOR MOMS, May 6th, 2018

Presented by Commissioner Maryam Zar

- Hello Marchers! What a fantastic feeling to be out here with you, supporting our mothers, - our daughters, sisters, leaders, community activists, colleagues - the cornerstones of our society.
- The number of roles and responsibilities that mothers take on in our communities is indeed endless, and I want to thank you all for stepping up, speaking out, and showing solidarity with them today.
- We all know that we can *and should* be doing more to support our moms. Today, we are not giving back to mothers what mothers give to society. Heartbreaking stories and mounting research confirm that we do not put resources where they are needed to truly help communities thrive.
- In 2015, the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women and Mayor Eric Garcetti commissioned the first report ever on the status of women and girls in the City. This was the first step of a long-term effort to change the system; to address data gaps and let proven needs guide the way the City operates.
- Through the study, we learned that 25% of all Angelenas live in poverty. This means, [that] for 475,000 women in the City, access to high-quality healthcare, education, housing, and well-paid jobs is limited, if not out of reach all together.
- So, how are we addressing this? At the local level, under Mayor Eric Garcetti's leadership, we are implementing the Executive Directive No. 11 on Gender Equity. While not all cities and states gather data on sex, race, ethnicity, and income, the City of Los Angeles, through its 30+ Departments, is working to deepen our understanding of these issues and make data accessible to everyone through a City-wide Gender Equity Dashboard.

- Slowly but surely, we are improving the ways in which the City operates by considering women and girls unique needs in the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs.
- Only in this way can we break down the financial, racial, cultural and systemic barriers that leave women, particularly women of color and low-income women, at a disadvantage and with insufficient quality of care, or no care at all.
- Yet, a lot of work remains to be done.
- Today's March makes me eager to work harder and be bolder, and I hope you feel the same. Together, we must pursue innovative ways to get our message heard; connect with others, build bridges, and compel people to care.
- Every mother counts and the City of Angels must be a City that continues to foster gender equality, where mothers, regardless of their racial backgrounds, succeed in all of their roles and in every dream they set out to pursue.
- Thank you.