

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, equity and affordability regarding menstrual health is defined as the idea that menstruation is a normal bodily function & aspect of life and the care of menstrual health is important; and

WHEREAS, the community members of the City of El Paso believe that providing free menstrual products defined as tampons, pads, menstrual cups, and period panties in public spaces will help reduce stigma and promote menstrual equity, which is essential for ensuring gender equity in our community; and

WHEREAS, poor menstruation health can have an impact on a person's mental health such as anxiety, depression, or mood swings during their menstrual cycle, and by providing resources for good menstrual health, individuals may be able to alleviate some of these symptoms; and

WHEREAS, menstruation is a natural bodily function experienced by nearly half of the world's population, and should not be stigmatized or shamed, nor be a financial burden on an aspect of life that an individual cannot control; and

WHEREAS, in Texas, 1 in 6 women and girls ages 12 to 44 live below the poverty line, and the average individual during menstruation spends about \$20-\$40 on menstrual products per cycle, adding up to about \$11,000-\$18,000 over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, providing access relieves financial burdens to communities and individuals in El Paso, opens up future discourse into physical health, and encourages better education on an individual's biology, which will help relieve issues in physical health and mental well-being to many individuals who suffer from not being able to obtain substantial menstrual health-care; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso previously has no record of care or dialogue regarding menstrual health and menstrual equity, and opening a dialogue is important for the well-being and improvement of healthcare in our community, and the provision of menstrual products in government buildings and public schools can help ensure that individuals who menstruate have the resources they need to manage their periods with dignity and respect, and it is the responsibility of the city to ensure that all individuals have access to basic necessities, including menstrual products; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso recognizes menstrual health and menstrual equity and the need to address the importance of normalizing menstruation thereby providing menstrual products and resources regarding menstrual health to the community of El Paso and recognizes the work of Deeds, not Words and their Student Chapter at UTEP and EPCC and their work on promoting awareness on menstrual issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Council of the City of El Paso directs the City Manager to create a City program providing free menstrual products in all city-owned buildings at all times, including during emergencies such as natural disasters and public health emergencies, and will allocate all necessary budget allocations for this program in the FY2024 budget for the program to be implemented on September 1, 2023, and continue in perpetuity, and directs the City Manager to come back and present the plan for this program on a City Council meeting that will be held in July 2023, to include presenting a proposed campaign for advertising this program around the city.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2023.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

ATTEST:

Oscar Leeser, Mayor

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FOR CONTENT:



Roberta Brito
Assistant City Attorney