

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 21-005**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALLIANCE FOR GIRLS “SAFETY ON PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION FOR GIRLS CAMPAIGN”**

WHEREAS, AC Transit is committed to delivering safe transit in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties for all riders; and

WHEREAS, Alliance for Girls developed a comprehensive report in partnership with 250 high-school age girls titled "Together, We Rise," that included community-based research findings that girls in the Bay Area expressed feeling unsafe on public transportation and while walking through their communities; and

WHEREAS, "Together, We Rise" outlines how girls experience physical and verbal harassment often of a sexual nature on transit; and

WHEREAS, it was also noted in the "Together, We Rise" report that at every listening session, nearly all the girls talked about everyday instances of being physically or verbally harassed as they took the bus to and from school or to meet with friends; and

WHEREAS, Alliance for Girls noted fear of safety contributes to decreases in ridership and the potential of public transportation systems;

WHEREAS, widespread use of public transit increases fuel efficiency, reduces carbon emissions and traffic congestion, and produces financial benefits for riders and the economy; and

WHEREAS, Alliance for Girls noted that according to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), “every \$1 invested in public transportation generates \$4 in economic returns;” and

WHEREAS, according to the report "Measuring #METOO in California, A Statewide Assessment of Sexual Harassment and Assault," published in May 2019, among all women surveyed, most (77%) reported experiencing sexual harassment in public spaces with 29% reporting the harassment took place on mass transit; and

WHEREAS, AC Transit provides an Essential Public Service, and seeks to provide safety for its passengers and the communities it serves, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including girls and women; and

WHEREAS, many girls rely on public transit to get to school, home, work and social events; and

WHEREAS, when there are gains in the lives of girls and women and they are safer, all Americans benefit and achieve a better quality of life, and increased access to opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District does resolve as follows:

Section 1. The District will collaborate with Alliance for Girls to create a sexual harassment prevention campaign and provide recommendations for public safety improvements for all riders, especially girls and young women on AC Transit buses and at bus stops.

Section 2. Alliance for Girls may offer the District its findings and recommendations regarding the Gender Equity Safety Action Plan for Bay Area Transit Spaces at least annually.

Section 3. AC Transit's staff will work to identify and implement best practices to advance gender-specific equity initiatives to improve girls' experiences on AC Transit, including recommending the development of policies that promote safety and an environment free from fear and harassment on AC Transit buses.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by four affirmative votes of the Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of February 2021.

Elsa Ortiz, President

Attest:

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

I, Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary for the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 24th day of February, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

Jill A. Sprague, General Counsel