



City of Long Beach

C-2

Office of Robert Garcia
Councilmember, First District

Date: April 3, 2012
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District
Subject: Travel to Houston, Texas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R Garcia", written over the "From:" line.

Background:

In December of 2011 I was invited by Victory Fund, a nonprofit organization, to travel to Houston for the 2011 International Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. During my stay, I announced the Gay and Lesbian Leadership 2012 Conference, which is to be held in Long Beach this year, benefiting Long Beach culturally, politically, and economically. I also participated in a technology panel, an educational session that was part of the conference.

During my stay in Houston, I was able to engage in discussion of public policy issues and strategies that support LGBT individuals and equal rights for all. I developed relationships with other elected officials and policy advocates that will benefit the City of Long Beach in its advocacy for LGBT equality.

The City of Long Beach has a substantial LGBT population, a history of support for LGBT equality under the law, a hugely successful and economically important PRIDE Festival, and a leadership role within the State of California and the United States on LGBT issues. The conference and the information and relationship-building available there will strengthen and enhance my ability as a City official to protect and expand rights for all people.

Recommendation: Receive and file report on Councilmember Garcia's trip to Houston.