

City of Long Beach
Many Unique Neighborhoods
One Great City



Dr. Suja Lowenthal
Vice Mayor
Council District 2

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council June 21, 2016

From: Suja Lowenthal, Second District *SR*
Lena Gonzalez, First District *LG*
Rex Richardson, Ninth District *RR*

Subject: Human Relations Commission's recommendation related to travel to North Carolina and Mississippi

RECOMMENDATION:

Respectfully request the City Council support the Human Relations Commission's recommendation to suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi until the repeal of the North Carolina Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2") and Mississippi House Bill 1523, and

Respectfully request a signed letter be sent from the Mayor and/or City Council to the Governors of each state opposing each respective bill and informing them of the City of Long Beach's travel sanction.

BACKGROUND:

Please see attached letter from our Human Relations Commission dated May 17, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to this action.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

**Jeannine Pearce, Chair
Miles McNeeley, Vice Chair
Elisa Buchanan, Member
Shane Devins, Member
Byron Bolton, Member
Rohida Khan, Member**



**Desmond Fletcher, Member
Otis Hogan, Member
Nikole Cababa, Member
Veronica Quincy, Member
Elaine Bernal, Member
Steve Gallagher, Member**

May 17, 2016

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Recommendation to City Council that the City of Long Beach Denounce the North Carolina Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2") and Mississippi House Bill 1523, and suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Human Relations Commission (Commission) has been informed of two recent incidents that have occurred in Long Beach involving individuals that were targeted based on their perceived gender or transgender identity. The first incident involved a transgender man who has filed a civil complaint against Hawleywood's Barber Shop at 2234 E. 4th Street. The plaintiff alleged that the barber shop refused him service because he is transgender. The second case was the violent attack and stabbing of a transgender woman on March 20, 2016. The two assailants in this case have already been convicted and sentenced to prison with additional hate crime enhancements.

In light of these recent events, the Commission is deeply concerned about the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of transgender persons in Long Beach. To put this issue in a broader context, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations 2014 Hate Crime Report states that there were 15 gender-based hate crimes reported to their agency. Of those, all were committed against transgender women and 93% were of a violent nature.

Nationally, the State of North Carolina recently passed House Bill 2, called The Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2"). The bill was passed in response to anti-transgender sentiment following a city ordinance that allowed for individuals to use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity. "HB2" prohibits local governments from passing anti-discrimination laws to protect a range of groups. A growing list of municipalities, including the

cities of San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and New York have instituted travel bans to North Carolina to demonstrate solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

More recently, the State of Mississippi passed a law (House Bill 1523) allowing people with religious objections to refuse services to same-sex couples. The law also permits employers to use their religious beliefs to justify discriminatory workplace policies, such as grooming, dress code, and locker and bathroom access. As with North Carolina, municipalities throughout the country have initiated travel restrictions to Mississippi while the law remains in its current form.

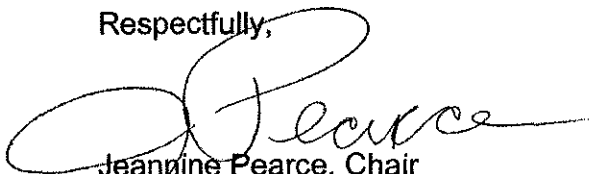
The Commission's purpose and function is "to promote good will...in order to maintain civic pride and tranquility and enhance and improve mutual understanding and respect for all citizens of the community. To furnish the opportunity for the promotion and encouragement of positive human relations among citizens, groups and institutions and to consider, promote and develop programs for the reduction of tension, conflict, or violence which may arise from intolerance, prejudice and discrimination based upon race, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability."

The Commission believes it is imperative that we implement official policy to reinforce the notion that all members in our community are deserving of respect and dignity. As the Long Beach City Council's principle advisory commission promoting peace, tolerance, and mutual respect, the Commission submits to the Long Beach City Council the following recommendation:

In demonstrating solidarity with the local and national LGBTQ community, the City of Long Beach will suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi until the repeal of their respective anti-LGBTQ laws. Additionally, we advise the City Council to send a signed letter from the Mayor and/or City Council to the Governors of each state opposing each respective bill and informing them of the City of Long Beach's travel sanction.

We believe that these actions will firmly reinforce the belief that Long Beach is a city embracing diversity, tolerance, and acceptance.

Respectfully,



Jeannine Pearce, Chair
Human Relations Commission



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: June 16, 2016
To: Maria Garcia, City Clerk
From: Suja Lowenthal, District 2
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of *June 21, 2016*

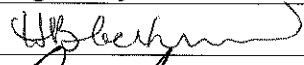


Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Human Relations Commission's recommendation related to travel to North Carolina and Mississippi

Respectfully request the City Council support the Human Relations Commission's recommendation to suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi until the repeal of the North Carolina Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2") and Mississippi House Bill 1523, and

Respectfully request a signed letter be sent from the Mayor and/or City Council to the Governors of each state opposing each respective bill and informing them of the City of Long Beach's travel sanction.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
2	Suja Lowenthal	
1	Lena Gonzalez	
9	Rex Richardson	

Attachment: **Letter from City of Long Beach's Human Relations Commission dated May 17, 2016**

CC: Office of the Mayor