

Kerry A. Gerot, Chair
James Morgan, Vice Chair
Raul A. Añorve, Member
Sandy Horwitz, Member
Zachary Tinker, Member



Dean Chow, Member
Byron Bolton, Member
Claudette Powers, Member
Alyxandria Mancini, Member
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

September 12, 2013

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

Re: Resolution Condemning Discriminatory Laws Against the LGBT Community in Russia

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

As the Long Beach City Council's principle advisory commission promoting peace, tolerance, acceptance and mutual respect, the Human Relations Commission strongly encourages the City Council to support the Resolution for LGBT rights in Russia and urges our sister city of Sochi to join our protest.

The resolution, authored by Vice Mayor Garcia, Councilwoman Schipske, and Councilman Johnson seeks to expose the patently unjust laws in Russia that prohibit "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations." In light of the 2014 Winter Olympics that will draw worldwide attention and visitors, these obviously discriminatory and hateful laws will present untold hardship and legal as well as safety threats to many athletes and visitors.

As a City that proactively promotes community harmony, acknowledging and respecting citizens' similarities and differences, it is most important that we communicate our vehement disagreement with such blatant discrimination lest we be perceived as offering implied consent by standing aside and saying nothing. The Human Relations Commission strongly urges the Long Beach City Council to adopt the aforementioned resolution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry A. Gerot".

Kerry A. Gerot, Chair
Human Relations Commission