

Human Dignity Program

Youth and Gang Violence Prevention, Diversity Education, Hate Crime Education and Response, Inter-Group Conflict Resolution,
Community Harmony, Peace and Nonviolence



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October 26, 2009

Honorable Mayor Foster and City Council Members
City of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Letter of Support for an Equal Benefits Ordinance

Dear Mayor Foster and Members of the City Council:

Since February 21, 1989, when the Human Relations Commission (HRC) was first convened, the HRC's purpose is to provide a forum to achieve better human relations and promote goodwill among individuals, groups and institutions in order to maintain civic pride and tranquility and to enhance and improve mutual understanding and respect for all citizens of Long Beach. Further, the HRC's purpose is to also 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 that may arise from intolerance, prejudice and discrimination.

The HRC has consistently supported equal rights for the citizens of Long Beach. An Equal Benefits Ordinance will ensure that entities that contract with the City of Long Beach treat their employees in a nondiscriminatory manner. After much deliberation and discussion and after reviewing other Equal Benefits Ordinances for various cities in California, we recommend that (1) the City Council pass an Equal Benefits Ordinance; and (2) a fair threshold amount for each contract between an organization or company, whether it be for-profit or not-for-profit, and the City of Long Beach be \$10,000.

By passing an Equal Benefits Ordinance, the City of Long Beach makes a strong statement that the our city believes that organizations and companies should grant the same employment benefits to domestic partners as those already enjoyed by married couples. If you should have any questions regarding our support of this measure, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

James W. Morgan
Chair, Human Relations Commission

