



City of Long Beach  
Working Together to Serve

Office of Robert Garcia  
Vice Mayor, First District  
Memorandum

**R-5**

**Date:** December 11, 2012  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Vice Mayor Robert Garcia, First District *RG*  
Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, Second District *S*  
Councilmember Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*  
**Subject:** **Municipality Equality Index**

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**Background:**

Long Beach recently received a perfect score on the Municipality Equality Index (MEI), the first-ever rating system of LGBT inclusion in municipal law. The MEI is a project of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT organization, the Victory Fund Institute and the Equality Federation Institute.

The MEI rates cities based on 47 criteria areas falling under 6 broad categories; non-discrimination laws, relationship recognition, the municipality's employment practices, inclusiveness of city services, law enforcement and municipal leadership.

Long Beach was only 1 of 11 cities to receive a perfect score of 100. Over 137 cities were included in the report card, including the nation's 50 largest cities, all of the state capitols, and the largest mid-size cities.

The study cites numerous local municipals laws and actions, including:

- Domestic Partner Benefits
- Equal Benefits Ordinance
- Non-Discrimination Policies
- Fair Housing Policies
- City's Position of Marriage Equality
- Police Department Relationship with LGBT Community

The report also notes one area where the city could improve, in the area of equivalent family leave.

**Recommendation:**

**Direct the City Manager to report to the City Council on the results of the Municipality Equality Index.**