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- Treatment Advocacy
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- Rental Assistance
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- Cultural Programs
- Workshops

Non-Profit Tax ID:#95-3523149
United Way Agency ID:#36419

Dr. Suja Lowenthal
Councilmember, 2nd District
333 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

June 17, 2014

Dear Councilmember Lowenthal,

The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (The Center) strongly supports 4th Street Vine's (2142 E. 4th Street Long Beach, CA 90814) application for an entertainment permit as we believe this will lead to increased public safety along the 4th Street corridor.

4th Street Vine's presence on 4th Street, particularly in the evening hours when retail stores are closed, is integral to the increasing sense of safety our staff, volunteers, and clients report when entering and leaving our organization. The Center deeply respects, and maintains a strong professional relationship with, the owners, management, and staff of 4th Street Vine and we have never experienced any nuisance from customers entering or leaving their business. On the contrary, the increased foot traffic resulting from customers patronizing 4th Street Vine creates a safer 4th Street for residents, customers, and business owners.

The customers patronizing 4th Street Vine represent the "right kind of people" we want on 4th Street; people who support local businesses and our local economy, conduct themselves with respect, and create additional foot traffic in the evening hours. The customers of 4th Street Vine, in addition to contributing to increased foot traffic in the evening hours, act as a deterrent to those patronizing 4th Street with the intent to engage in criminal activity. As businesses keep later hours along 4th Street, The Center has noticed a decrease in graffiti and vandalism and our staff, volunteers, and clients feel safer entering and leaving our organization in the evening hours. Additionally, many of us patronize 4th Street Vine for business and pleasure and have never experienced any nuisance or disruption from other customers.

Again, we strongly support 4th Street Vine's application for an entertainment permit. We support them as a thriving local business on 4th Street and we rely on their customers to serve as eyes and ears on the street in the evening hours. Their entertainment permit will only serve to improve public safety and create a stronger more vibrant "Retro Row."

Sincerely,

Porter Gilberg
Executive Director

2017 East Fourth Street
Long Beach, California
90814-1001

T 562-434-4455
F 562-433-6428

www.centerlb.org