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- Public Policy Advocacy
- Social / Support Groups
- Twelve Step Programs
- HIV/STI Prevention & Education
- HIV Testing and Counseling
- Treatment Advocacy
- Preventative Case Management
- Rental Assistance
- Substance Abuse Support Services
- Cultural Programs
- Workshops

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

August 11, 2014

Long Beach City Council  
 Honorable Mayor and Council Members  
 Civic Center Plaza  
 333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of the City Council:

I'm writing on behalf of The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach. As the largest direct service organization providing health and wellness services to the LGBTQ community, as well as allies, it is vital that the City support our community's efforts to ensure funding for comprehensive language access services at the City level as well as protecting a portion returning RDA tax increments for affordable housing.

One of the most celebrated aspects of our City is the incredible diversity that we host, especially racial and ethnic diversity. At the same time, communities of color are suffering disproportionately from lack of access to resources that will allow their families to thrive. As an organization that works alongside, with, and for these communities, we stand together with our partners in the City to support the prioritization of the needs of low-income communities in this year's budget, as well as the ongoing decisions that the City Council will face in the coming years.

Much discussion is had in the community service world around the idea of 'equality' versus 'equity.' For example, 'equality' is saying that each of nine districts gets one fire engine; 'equity' asks the question of which districts have the most fires, and allocates resources based on need. As a Long Beach serving organization, **we urge the Mayor and City Council to pursue a vision of equity in our City.**

This budget cycle is one of the first opportunities that the new 2014 Mayor and City Council have to recognize and prioritize the needs of low-income communities of color in Long Beach. In this year's budget, we urge you to:

- *Allocate appropriate funding to fully execute the vision of the Language Access Policy passed in August 2013*
- *Protect 20% of returning RDA tax increment dollars, or 'Boomerang funds' to affordable housing*

We look forward to your support on these issues, and working together in the coming years on finding creative and meaningful solutions to the challenging issues our communities face.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Porter Gilberg  
 Executive Director

Cc: Pat West, City Manager

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