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October 4, 2010

Serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community since 1977.

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THE CENTER SERVICE:

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Police Advisory Board
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Twelve Step Programs
HIV Prevention and Education
Treatment Advocacy
Preventative Case Management
Transportation Assistance
Rental Assistance
Counseling Services

Non-profit Tax ID: 95-3523149
United Way Agency ID: 36413

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Proposition 8


Dear Mayor and Council members:

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Greater Long Beach provides services to support, inform and connect the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities through programs of information and education, health and well-being, cultural and social activities, and social justice. We advocate for the inclusion of all individuals into a free and just community, without judgment or restriction due to sexual orientation or gender expression.

We stand in solidarity with the Human Relations Commission in requesting that the City Council adopt a resolution affirming Chief Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* wherein Proposition 8 was found to violate the Equal Protection and Due Process rights of California's same-sex couples. We also request that the city facilitate the granting of marriage licenses to same-sex couples if the stay is lifted.

We cannot stay silent. By speaking out together for social justice, we continue to advocate that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are not second class citizens. By speaking out together for equality, we continue to give hope to those at risk of being bullied, harassed and/or physically mistreated for being gay. By speaking out together for fundamental rights for all people, we continue to form a more perfect and unshakeable union. We therefore ask the City Council to join us in supporting the assertion – gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people are **not** forsaken under the United States Constitution and that they deserve to have the same rights and recognition for their loving relationships as opposite-sex couples do.

Sincerely,


Ron Sylvester
Chair, Board of Directors
The Long Beach Center


Christina D. Rios Bennett
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
The Long Beach Center