

Moore, Tania

From: Levi, Peter <PLEvi@adl.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:04 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL; supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Concerning Proposed Ordinance to Limit Flag Displays
Attachments: Huntington Beach City Council - ADL letter.pdf

Please find attached [and below] a letter concerning the proposed ordinance to limit flag displays.

February 2, 2023

Dear Members of the Huntington Beach City Council,

On behalf of ADL (Anti-Defamation League), we submit the following comment in opposition to the proposal to limit flag displays at city facilities.

As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization founded to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. We have a longstanding commitment to protecting civil rights, including the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. In fact, antisemitism and anti-LGBTQ+ bias is often intertwined. Support for one community does not undermine or distract from support from another.

If enacted, this proposed ordinance would prohibit Huntington Beach facilities from flying the Pride flag in June. The rainbow flag serves as a symbol of hope and pride for members of the LGBTQ+ community. For groups who have been oppressed, marginalized, discriminated against and targeted for bullying, harassment and violence, pride is key. Huntington Beach has supported the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and affirmed their self-worth and dignity by flying the flag sending the message all deserve to be treated with respect and free from hate and harassment.

The Pride Flag is not political. It is about identity and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. Celebrating the rich diversity of the Huntington Beach community is not a political statement and prohibiting the display of pride flags because they are allegedly "divisive" sends a dangerous message to the LGBTQ+ community and allies. The change in Huntington Beach policy will actively send the message that they are not welcome here, that they do not belong, while emboldening extremists.

Across the county, members of the LGBTQ+, particularly children, are being targeted and discriminated against. Dismissing the pride flag as merely "political" is insulting to the LGBTQ+ community and those who support the civil rights of all citizens. Huntington Beach is a place where all neighbors should not only feel safe and secure, but also welcomed and valued. We should stand with members of the LGBTQ+ community and join in celebration.

We urge you to reject the proposed ordinance to limit flag displays.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Levi
Regional Director

ADL Orange County/Long Beach
plevi@adl.org
orangecounty.adl.org
t: 949.679.3770

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 2/7/2023

Agenda Item No.: #30 (23-109)

Regional Officers

Regional Chair
Michael Rosen

Committee Chairs

Advocacy & Engagement
Stuart Katz

Civil Rights

Stuart Wolfe

Development

Gene Alterman

Education and Vice Chair

Michelle Gerstley

International Affairs

Robin Steinmetz

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Josh Grushkin
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Shannon McGowan

National Officers

National Chair
Ben Sax

CEO and National Director

Jonathan Greenblatt

Deputy National Director

Kenneth Jacobson



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. S. Levi". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and a cursive "Levi".

Peter S. Levi
Regional Director

ADL Orange County/Long Beach

1201 Dove Street, Suite 390, Newport Beach, CA 92660 | t: 949.679.3737 | Orange-County@adl.org | Orange-County.adl.org