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September 5, 2023

Huntington Beach City Council
2000 Main Street, Fourth Floor
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Dear Huntington Beach City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), we write to express our opposition to the proposed changes to the City of Huntington Beach's Policy on Human Dignity.

Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, ADL has since become a leading anti-hate organization. As we work to fulfill our founding mission to "secure justice and fair treatment to all," our ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate. With a longstanding commitment to protecting civil rights and the rights of all marginalized communities, ADL works toward and envisions a world free of hate and discrimination.

Written originally in response to the 1994 murder of a Black man and a 1996 attempted murder of a Native American, the Huntington Beach Policy on Human Dignity is a strong communal statement that rejects hate and recognizes the diverse tapestry of our community. The newly proposed policy is a step in the wrong direction that omits the inclusive language that recognizes the diversity of our community including a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, or gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

Furthermore, this new policy is dangerous and discriminatory, echoing false and malicious language that has been increasingly weaponized against the LGBTQ+ community. According to ADL and GLAAD's [Year in Review: Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate & Extremism Incidents](#) report, there were over 350 incidents of anti-LGBTQ+ harassment, vandalism, and assault between June 2022 and April 2023.

Huntington Beach should be a place where all community members feel safe and are treated with dignity. The current policy is a model for what we want our city to be. The proposed policy is not.

The City Huntington Beach is a place where all neighbors should not only feel safe and secure, but also welcomed and valued. Everyone – especially our youth – should have every opportunity to live safe, healthy lives, regardless of their protected identity. We have the duty to ensure this city is a place where all community members feel safe and are treated with dignity.

We urge you to reject this policy change and welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further. Thank you for your consideration regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.S. Levi".

Peter S. Levi
Regional Director