

August 2, 2007

Hon. Sue Gunzburger, Commissioner
Hon. Kristin Jacobs, Commissioner
Hon. Ken Keechl, Commissioner
Hon. Ilene Lieberman, Commissioner
Hon. Stacy Ritter, Commissioner
Hon. John E. Rodstrom, Jr., Commissioner
Hon. Diana Wasserman-Rubin, Commissioner
Hon. Lois Wexler, Commissioner
Broward County Commission
115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 421
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Members of the Broward County Commission:

We are writing to support UNITE Ft. Lauderdale's request that you promptly pass a resolution condemning Mayor Naugle's insulting, hurtful and untrue comments and reaffirming Broward County's welcome of and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

While we know that some of you have made individual statements rejecting the mayor's comments and said that he does not speak for you, the reality is that because the mayor made his defamatory comments in his official capacity, it is up to you to officially and formally respond on behalf of the people of Broward County. Otherwise, your collective silence may be taken by others to mean that his comments actually do reflect the views of your city, not just the Mayor's own personal and deplorable prejudices.

This is more than a local issue for two reasons. First, because the mayor's comments have received such widespread attention coast-to-coast, they defamed *all* LGBT people. Second, because the mayor questioned whether the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau should be seeking the business of LGBT tourists, our national community needs to know that you continue to welcome us.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward you moving on this resolution promptly.

Sincerely,

Selisse Berry, Executive Director, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates
Jeremy Bishop, Executive Director, Pride At Work, AFL-CIO
Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director, Family Pride
Jimmy Creech, Executive Director, Faith In America, Inc.
Andrea Densham, Interim Executive Director, Mautner Project, The National Lesbian Health Organization
Matt Foreman, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Neil Giuliano, President, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, former Mayor of Tempe, AZ
Jody M. Huckaby, Executive Director, PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
Kate Kendell, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights
Clarence Patton, Acting Executive Director, National Association of Anti-Violence Programs
H. Alexander Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, National Black Justice Coalition
Patrick Sammon, President, Log Cabin Republicans
Joe Solmonese, President, Human Rights Campaign
Terry Stone, Executive Director, National Association of LGBT Community Centers
Lee Swislow, Executive Director, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders
Rachel B. Tiven, Executive Director, Immigration Equality
Jo Wyrick, Executive Director, National Stonewall Democrats

CC: Jim Naugle, Mayor of Ft. Lauderdale
Waymon Hudson, Spokesperson, UNITE Ft. Lauderdale