



2017 E. Fourth Street, Long Beach, CA 90814 T: 562.434.4455 www.centerlb.org

Media Inquiries:
Ron Sylvester, ron@rstvinc.com

**THE GAY & LESBIAN CENTER of GREATER LONG BEACH HOSTS RECEPTION
WITH NEW L.B.P.D. CHIEF OF POLICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONG BEACH, April 16, 2010 - On April 15, 2010, The Gay & Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach ("The Center") hosted a free community reception to welcome Jim McDonnell, the new chief of the Long Beach Police Department.

The reception aimed to provide an opportunity for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender ("GLBT") community to meet the chief, and gain insight into community concerns between the Long Beach Police Department ("LBPD") and the GLBT community.

Mayor Bob Foster introduced McDonnell and stressed the importance of fostering an open dialogue between the LBPD and Long Beach's diverse communities, such as the GLBT community.

The comments from the mayor were followed by an informal conversation between the public and McDonnell, moderated by Center Board Chairman Ron Sylvester. During the discussion the chief familiarized the audience with his career in law enforcement and touched upon some of top concerns as Long Beach's police chief. In addition, McDonnell stressed that he will have an open-door policy for all members of the community, and will work with Commander Laura Farinella of the departments GLBT Chiefs Advisory Group to further strengthen the great working relationship with the gay community.

At the height of the evening, The Center counted approximately 85 people in attendance. Elected officials or their representatives in attendance included Moises Romero, representing Congresswoman Laura Richardson; Tim Patton, representing Assembly member Bonnie Lowenthal; Bill Orton, representing Senator Roderick Wright; Mayor Bob Foster; Cory Allen, representing Councilmember Robert Garcia; and Armando Vasquez-Ramos, representing Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell. Representatives from McDonnell's GLBT Advisory Group, as well as GLBT organizations including Long Beach Pride and Out & About Long Beach

The event was chaired by Center Board Member Raul A. Añorve. "The Center is truly honored to have Chief McDonnell spend some time with us tonight", said Añorve. Añorve went on to say, "This gathering is important in order to build a stronger relationship and have clear links of communication with our police department, and the public should feel comfortable to share or address any concerns unique to the GLBT community."

During McDonnell's years of service with the Los Angeles Police Department, he was involved with several GLBT forums, and walked in several Christopher Street West Pride parades. McDonnell also led the charge to recruit GLBT members to the force. He is already a resident of Long Beach and knows its diverse neighborhoods, and has demonstrated his ability to build strong relationships with the GLBT community.

Mission Statement: The Center Long Beach was founded in 1977 and serves as the vital, central core for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Long Beach. For more information, visit www.centerlb.org.