

First Mayor's *Pride* Reception Opens Month-Long Long Beach *Pride* Festivities

by Joe Mello, *LBReport.com* Community Correspondent



(May 6, 2011) -- This year's 28th annual Long Beach Pride Celebration and Parade festivities opened with its first ever Mayor's Pride Reception on Friday May 6th, 2011.



Photo by Joe Mello

The invitation-only reception at the Long Beach Museum of Art drew a diverse crowd of almost 120 people.



Photo by Joe Mello

Ron Sylvester, Chairman of the Board of *The Center* (Long Beach's Gay and Lesbian community Center) told ***LBReport.com***:

"A Mayor's Reception is the traditional opening of Gay and Lesbian Pride celebrations in major cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago. This is the first time Long Beach has had this opening signature event." *The Center* worked with Long Beach Gay and Lesbian Pride Inc., and the Long Beach Museum of Art and others to host the event with Mayor Foster's office.



The Center Board Chair Ron Sylvester and Mayor Bob Foster. Photo by Joe Mello

In addressing the crowd, Mayor Foster asked the audience to reflect on the major progress Long Beach's Gay and Lesbian community and the Long Beach Pride Celebration has achieved in the last 28 years. The Mayor reminded the audience that Long Beach was not always so accepting stating, "sometimes the founders put life and limb in jeopardy to make all this possible." The Mayor concluded by thanking the community and "the diversity we celebrate."



LBPB Administration Bureau Chief Braden Phillips, LBPB Commander Josef Levy, LB Attorney Stephanie Loftin. Photo by Joe Mello



Signal Hill Mayor Larry Forrester speaks with LBFD Assistant Chief Michael Du Ree. Photo by Joe Mello



LB Police Chief Jim Mc Donald speaks with The Center Board Chair Ron Sylvester. Photo by Joe Mello



Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal with former LB Councilman Evan Braude. Photo by Joe Mello



Drawing winner Chai Benson, Center Board Member Raul Anorve, drawing winner Xaiver Quinoes, Pink Party Host Jewels Long Beach. Photo by Joe Mello



Micheal Chapman and 4th District Council Aide Armando Vasquez-Ramos. Photo by Joe Mello




The 1st Mayor's Pride Reception is the opening of a month long celebration that attracts visitors from around the world which is this year's Long Beach Pride Festival theme: "Pride Around the World." Numerous events will be held throughout the month culminating in the Pride Festival and Parade May 21-22.



Pride Banner on Ocean Blvd. Photo by Joe Mello



Rainbow Flag flying over LB Museum of Art . Photo by Joe Mello

Follow LBReport.com w/  [Twitter](#)  [RSS](#)  [Facebook](#)

[Return To Front Page](#)

Contact us: mail@LBReport.com