

February 13, 2011

The Honorable Mayor Walkup and
Members of the Tucson City Council

Subject: GLBT Commission Annual Report

The Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues would like to thank Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the City of Tucson. We are thankful for the support of the City Clerk's office through this past year. The staff has been helpful in fielding our questions. During 2010, the GLBT Commission has worked to impact our mission to foster conditions that promote the welfare of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals.

Activities in 2010:

- In the month of February, current and former Commissioners held a retreat to determine future directions and refocus. During this retreat, we restructured our meeting agendas, learned from successes of past Commissioners, and reviewed our purpose.
- To mark the end of our 10th year as a City of Tucson Commission, we celebrated our impact in the community with a celebration and fundraiser. Held in June of 2010, we invited former Commissioners, community members, and elected officials to commemorate our successes and look to the future.
- In October, the GLBT Commission had a car and float in the annual Tucson Pride Parade. We were pleased to be joined by several City Council Members and were honored to have the Co-Chairs driven by Arizona Representative Phil Lopes.
- The GLBT Commission worked with several members of City Council and the Department of Procurement to address vendor regulations in regards to offering domestic partner benefits. In December, GLBT Commission Co-Chair, Michael Woodward presented to Mayor and Council. We are thankful to Councilman Paul Cunningham for putting forth a motion to have this issue examined by the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Commission. We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with Mayor and Council, the Department of Procurement, and the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Commission. Progress is being made to identify other supporters in multiple sectors in the community.
- Community members also brought issues affecting the GLBT community to our attention:
 - In partnership with the Human Relations Commission, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, Wingspan, and SAGA (Southern Arizona Gender Alliance) we are working to redefine "gender identity" in Chapter 17 of the City Code and examine appeals processes.
 - Continuing complaints regarding the treatment of women and GLBT identified, or perceived GLBT identity, in the Tucson Fire Department has reignited our interest. We are currently developing a plan to work with TFD to ensure equal treatment.

The Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues looks forward to an impactful 2011 that moves equality forward for Tucsonans.

Sincerely,

Danielle Flink
Co-Chair

Michael Woodward
Co-Chair