THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO HOST COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON LGBT INCLUSIVE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(San Francisco, CA.) The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) is pleased to announce a community forum on inclusive comprehensive immigration reform to be held at the San Francisco Public Library in the Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

The primary objective of the community forum is to enable the public to better understand why it is critical that current comprehensive immigration reforms proposals address the specific needs of the LGBT community.

Michael Pappas, Human Rights Commissioner and Chair of the agency’s LGBT Advisory Committee stated, “As the LGBT community and its allies continue to fight for unqualified equality on the federal level, this fight must also extend to demanding inclusive immigration reform if unfettered equal rights for the LGBT community are to be truly realized. To this end, the community must arm itself with greater education and awareness to ensure that immigration reform embraces the LGBT perspective and the unique and distinct families structures that are created as a result.”

The forum is comprised of well-informed and thought provoking leaders from the LGBT community who will discuss family unity, asylum and detention issues, pathways to citizenship and other measures that greatly impact California’s diverse LGBT and immigrant communities. Community members and stakeholders are encouraged to attend to have their questions addressed by the experts as well as share their own perspectives on inclusive reform.

The panel includes Arcelia Hurtado, Immigration Policy Advisor, National Center for Lesbian Rights; Anoop Prasad, Staff Attorney, Asian Law Caucus; Rev. Richard Smith, Vicar, Episcopal Church of Saint John the Evangelist; and Amy Lin, Student, ASPIRE and Chinese Progressive Association. The panel will be facilitated by Commissioner Michael Pappas, San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

The event is free to the public and is co-sponsored by the Human Rights Commission LGBT Advisory Committee, Our Family Coalition, and Out4Immigration.

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The Human Rights Commission was established in 1964 by City Ordinance and became a Charter Commission in 1990. In 2014 the HRC will celebrate 50 years of distinguished public service in human rights advocacy for the City and County of San Francisco.