



May 5, 2014

RE: Updated Endorsements for dotgay LLC (Application ID# 1-1713-23699)

Dear ICANN,

Attached are a series of updated letters of support that community endorsers have requested be submitted for consideration by the CPE evaluators. All five of these organizations have previously submitted letters of support, however each of them seek to express further commitment to the community model presented by dotgay LLC and offer additional insights within their updated letters.

We appreciate ICANN adding the enclosed endorsement letters to dotgay LLC's community application for .gay (Application ID# 1-1713-23699).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JB", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Jamie Baxter
dotgay LLC

ILGA - International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

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22 April 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this updated letter in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .GAY TLD, however we must be completely clear that our support is exclusive to the community model for .GAY presented by dotgay LLC.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) is the only worldwide federation of more than 1,200 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) national and local organizations, fighting for the rights of LGBTI people. Established in 1978 in Coventry (UK), ILGA has member organizations in all five continents and is divided into six regions; ILGA PanAfrica, ILGA ANZAPI (Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia and Pacific Islands), ILGA Asia, ILGA Europe, ILGA LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) and ILGA North America.

ILGA enjoys consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is engaged within the UN system in advocacy for the rights of all people persecuted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. ILGA produces an annual world report on state-sponsored homophobia, which includes both a survey of legislation persecuting people on the basis of sexual orientation and a survey of legislation protecting and/or recognizing the rights of people against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

ILGA has been involved in consultation and development of dotgay LLC's community model for .GAY since February 2011, even participating on the dotgay Application Advisory Group (dAAG). The dAAG was formed of community leaders to ensure dotgay LLC's application was the best possible reflection of community interest before it was submitted to ICANN. ILGA's participation offered global perspective while addressing various issues such as diversity, inclusion and best practice. Through this truly authentic collaboration, with cultural and geographically dispersed community perspectives, dotgay LLC's community model was presented to ICANN, and to this day remains the only application for .GAY or .LGBT that visibly invited any portion of the community into their process. The ILGA Staff and Board discussed the community application of dotgay LLC at great length, both internally and directly to our membership, and ultimately voted in favor of supporting and engaging with the community focused approach.

In December 2012, ICANN's Independent Objector found that the standard applications for .GAY and .LGB T would be harmful to the gay community, but ruled that it was not his job to decide who represented community.

In March 2013, with the support of 40 other national and international LGBTI organizations, ILGA participated in ICANN's Community Objection process filing objections against four standard applications targeting LGBTI people. The objections included one application for .LGBT and three for .GAY, excluding the community application filed by dotgay LLC. Each objection highlighted detriment our community of LGBTIQI people would be subject to if ICANN

ILGA, the world federation of LGBTI organisations

*1100 members from 120 countries committed to equal human rights
for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people*

www.ilga.org

were to approve .GAY or .LGBT under models that lacked community governance and benefit. Despite the Panelist determining that the gay community is clearly delineated, that ILGA with our co-objectors had standing to represent the community on the matter of harm, and deciding there would be harm if there was not at least one gay community gTLD, all objections were dismissed. They were all dismissed on the basis that the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) would be the place for a decision to be made.

ILGA believes this is a situation where the issue of harm to the gay community keeps being pushed off to yet another panel. Detriment and harm to the global gay community has been shown, but unfairly, this detriment and harm has not been alleviated or otherwise dealt with up to this point.

At this juncture, ILGA remains convinced that the CPE process will prevail in favor of dotgay LLC's community model, officially granting the gay community stewardship of their own TLD. We continue to believe that this will be a historical moment for the gay community, one that will empower our community with a TLD that we can call our own and from which we can begin to address community needs. Although standard applicants consider .GAY a commodity they somehow feel entitled to, and from which they will simply generate revenue from, ILGA believes that dotgay LLC's community model offers a more appropriate stewardship of the term "GAY" coupled with the unique opportunity to do much more; build a trust namespace, enhance visibility for community groups and businesses, and fund community initiatives around the globe.

When comparing the rich body of work, ethics and advocacy of the team behind the dotgay LLC application and the community-unfriendly, revenue driven mindset of the other .GAY applicants who have presented no prior history of engagement, support or activism with or for the gay community, ILGA believes that the proper choice for ICANN to make is very clear. To do otherwise would be a great injustice to the global gay community and an injustice to ICANN's new gTLD program. The Applicant Guidebook itself opens with language claiming "the new gTLD program will open up the top level of the Internet's namespace to foster diversity, encourage competition, and enhance the utility of the DNS." What a shame it would be if that was all forgotten in the end.

Our community is currently under attack in countries like Russia, India and Cameroon where human rights are being denied, reversed and even taken away, leaving millions of LGBTQI people in harm's way and without basic human rights protections. To better understand the challenges the gay community is currently facing around the world, you need only read the day's headlines. As the single largest umbrella organization in the community, our work at ILGA is integral to fulfilling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for LGBTQI people everywhere and a failure to protect the gay community in the new gTLD program will further and unfairly burden ILGA, our member organizations, and millions of LGBTQI people everywhere who will be placed on the defense and left to deal with the detriment that will ensue.

ILGA reaffirms our commitment to a community model as presented by dotgay LLC, for the community of LGBTQI people who have been acknowledged as a clearly delineated community by the Community Objection Panelist in prior stages of ICANN's new gTLD program. Based on our commitment to a community model for .GAY and the visible support dotgay LLC has received from around the world, we truly believe .GAY will become one of the greatest community success stories in ICANN's new gTLD program.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Renato Sabbadini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is contained within a rectangular box.

Renato Sabbadini
Executive Director, ILGA

March 7, 2014

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Mr. Fadi Chehadé
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536
USA

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehadé and members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model submitted by dotgay LLC.

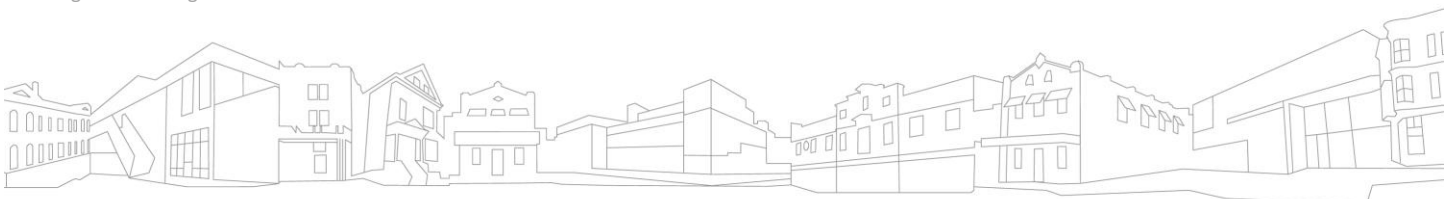
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers was founded in 1994 as a member-based coalition to support the development of strong, sustainable LGBT community centers. Serving over 200 LGBT community centers across the country in 46 states and the District of Columbia, as well as centers in Canada, Israel, Mexico, China, Italy and Australia, CenterLink assists newly forming community centers and helps strengthen existing LGBT centers, through networking opportunities for center leaders, peer-based technical assistance and training, and a variety of capacity building services.

Our efforts are based on the belief that LGBT community centers are primary change agents in the national movement working toward the liberation and empowerment of LGBT people. Serving over 1.7 million people annually, they are the heart and soul of the LGBT movement and are vital to our current well-being and dreams for the future.

Additionally, LGBT centers remain among the safest 'physical' spaces available to LGBT people. Centers serve as inclusive homes that celebrate, nurture and empower LGBT people while simultaneously offering solace from anti-gay hate, intimidation and threats of violence. The safety of LGBT people unquestionably remains a priority and prevalent issue in all regions of the world. Tackling the issue as a community, from all angles and opportunities is imperative. An archetype for a community TLD that emulates the parallel haven of LGBT centers will similarly serve as 'virtual' safe spaces for LGBT people. Introducing the .gay TLD under dotgay LLC's community model offers yet another important change agent in the liberation and empowerment of LGBT people in today's digital age.

Since early 2011, CenterLink has collaborated closely with dotgay LLC to identify community needs, concerns and best practices as the opportunity for a community TLD was being explored. This collaboration made available to dotgay LLC our grassroots perspective, a direct link to everyday LGBT people in towns and cities around the world. They represent no single race, color, creed, profession, language, education level, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, but instead a true cross-section of those in our community who are on a similar quest for equality, love, respect and

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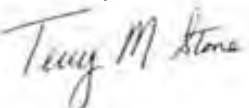
livelihood. It is no question these dreams have not been realized or afforded to all. CenterLink strongly believes ICANN must recognize this community effort for what it is; a chance to shape our own future, create a better experience, take charge of our own destiny and create a community TLD under the umbrella .gay.

As we have walked along side dotgay LLC over the past 3 years, learning from their unique vantage point from the ICANN multi-stakeholder ecosystem, we have also watched as they engaged, listened and responded to the community and community interest. With grace, compassion and the unwavering passion of the dotgay LLC team, we have witnessed a truly transformative opportunity take shape like no other in our community on such a global scale. Despite the resistance of few and the attacks of competitive applications, the community model for .gay has elevated LGBT people's expectations of how a TLD should be integrated and operated in society to celebrate a community. Putting community interest ahead of pure profit ambitions makes dotgay LLC's proposal an exemplary community model.

There are several key components of the community model that CenterLink will note as exceptional and beneficial to all our members, but especially to our smaller and less funded centers. A registration period that reduces the competition from speculators by securing the domain names that members of the community are already using in existing TLDs, a registration policy that limits use to authentic members of the community to build trust, and the philanthropic approach to redistribution of profits (67%) that will be generated through domain name sales. Knowing that dotgay LLC volunteered to participate in this way and that these elements are also contractually binding, not only protects the community but it also protects and secures the future operations of .gay.

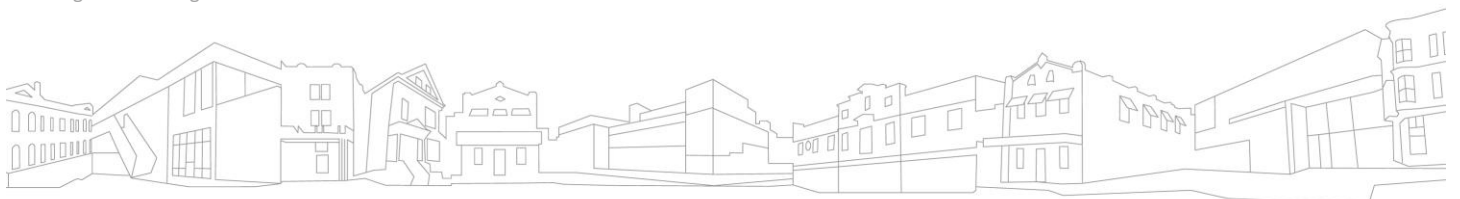
CenterLink is committed to helping create a community TLD for LGBT people. We believe that dotgay LLC has not only presented the most suitable and appropriate model under .gay, but they are also the only applicant for any TLD which relates to our community that took the time to help make a difference. We support dotgay LLC and their quest to work with the community and introduce a TLD of which all LGBT people can be proud.

Sincerely,



Terry M. Stone, CEO

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers



Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

As stated in our previous letter of support, the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) supports the community application of .GAY by dotgay LLC, and the layered benefits that the global community will enjoy under a new community operated TLD. We applaud the community participation and engagement that has helped craft the community application and we stand united in supporting and nurturing this community initiative.

Founded in 1983, IGLTA is the oldest and largest global organization dedicated to connecting and supporting businesses in the LGBT tourism industry. As the sole LGBT representative in the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and as leaders and advocates for the gay community in the tourism sector throughout 87 countries, we offer this additional perspective on the gay community and the .GAY TLD.

The efforts of IGLTA have certainly been an important bridge with the gay community within the tourism sector from an engagement perspective, especially for those seeking to offer a more gay-friendly environment or align with community standards around policy and practice. These acts are welcomed by members of the gay community and they help to drive social change and economic benefit. Being part of a community, especially the gay community, comes with its benefits as well as its responsibilities. To garner the trust and support of the gay community is more complex than putting a rainbow flag in a print ad or applying for a .GAY TLD because you have the required fee and technical skills, especially given the historical reality of discrimination and ill-treatment the community has endured. Our community scrutinizes more than the average person as “safety” remains paramount, including travelers from the gay community.

An important first step to understanding the gay community is acknowledging that community member perspective must be included and considered as vital and relevant in the conversation, and it must be infused with ongoing advocacy. Just like it makes more sense to ask a European to explain intimate details of European life over a person who has never visited Europe, it seems impossible to intimately understand the concerns of the gay community without including LGBTQIA+ perspective in the conversation. If that European moved from Europe, ten years down the road someone still residing within Europe would be required to help keep the European’s intimacy of Europe fresh, not so unlike the duties of an advocate. This basic understanding of human experience is a key ingredient to avoiding misunderstandings and unintended discrimination, with an “I know better from the outside” philosophy having no responsible place in the conversation.

For years now IGLTA has included in its work the training and educating of airlines, hotels, rental agencies and other tourism partners so that they can create a welcoming environment for members of the gay community. Our work has created measurable economic impact and sensitized a large portion of the population previously unfamiliar or unaware of the people and issues within the gay community. Key learnings offered by our staff, members, programs and partners have helped make the world a more gay-friendly place, while simultaneously achieving a new found respect and acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people.



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The point behind this discussion is to bring to light the intention, deception and feebleness of anti-community arguments being made by competitive applicants to dotgay LLC. Attempts to introduce notions and ideas by non-community members which are unsupported by actual community members, as contained in the competitors CPE scorecard, offer a rather bias opinion and one that in reasonable practice in the "community evaluation" should be rejected on merit alone. It is clear however, based on the facts contained in the non-community .GAY applications submitted to ICANN, that the standard applicants for .GAY are focused only on making lots of money from the gay community while not operating under the larger principles of interest of the community. Only the dotgay LLC application incorporates and prioritizes community interest, and to their credit does so at multiple levels.

To suggest that an "open" .GAY TLD, instead of a community operated .GAY TLD somehow better serves the larger gay community is counter to our experience of the last 30+ years and can only be a valued opinion or claim when it is presented from a substantial portion or distinguishable party within the community. That does not appear to be the case in .GAY however with only a handful of anti-community TLD comments from individuals on ICANN's website. It would make sense that the anti-community TLD comments be properly weighed against the unquestionable global and organizational support for dotgay LLC from well established, highly engaged and truly distinguished members of the gay community.

We appreciate the opportunity to add these comments to the CPE process. As IGLTA continues to work alongside dotgay LLC to create a community TLD that has the potential to become our community's next greatest resource, we stand strong in our support of dotgay LLC and the community approach to introducing .GAY.

John Tanzella
President & CEO | IGLTA- the leading LGBT global tourism resource

Date

STRENGTHENING BUSINESSES.
BUILDING COMMUNITY.



METRO NYC LGBT CHAMBER AND PROCUREMENT COUNCIL

April 25, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and members of the ICANN Board,

It is with continued enthusiasm and great anticipation that we write this second letter in support of ICANN's consideration to create a .GAY top-level domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC. Our organization would like to make it unquestionably clear that we only support the application of dotgay LLC.

The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce New York (NGLCCNY) provides valuable business development opportunities, financial access and educational resources to LGBT and allied businesses in the New York Metro area. As the official Metro New York affiliate chamber of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, NGLCCNY is the voice of thousands of LGBT-owned businesses and actively promotes and creates supplier diversity and procurement opportunities for its growing base of corporate partners and business members.

Since taking over as Executive Director of the NGLCCNY in 2012, our organization and its members have continued to participate in the ongoing development of the community work spearheaded by Scott Seitz of dotgay LLC, longtime NGLCCNY chamber member and Certified LGBT Business Enterprise (LGBTBE). The dedicated effort of the dotgay LLC team has accomplished a tremendous task of educating and informing the diverse intersects in the gay community to ensure that the TLD opportunity was not simply lost or misappropriated due to the inability of our community and its resources to adequately navigate the complex and extremely expensive program. dotgay LLC's leadership and advocacy on behalf of the community has certainly brought us to this exciting eve of launching the first ever gay-owned and operated TLD.

STRENGTHENING BUSINESSES. BUILDING COMMUNITY.



METRO NYC LGBT CHAMBER AND PROCUREMENT COUNCIL

Knowing that "innovation" and "public interest" are defining pillars for ICANN's new gTLD program, it is our belief that the community model for .GAY upholds those pillars, going the extra mile to incorporate and exceed the expectations and interests of the gay community. Creating a .GAY that simply resembles the status quo of existing TLDs would be a wasted opportunity and one that would absolutely challenge the reputation and safety of the gay community for years to come. Saying you will operate in the interest of the gay community and committing to it in contract through policy and governance are two different things, and only dotgay LLC has openly accepted that responsibility in writing.

It would be unjust not to take a moment and highlight many of the key elements that are layered into the community benefit component of dotgay LLC's plans. The focus on community governance, with a community driven Registry Advisory Board to shape policy, and the community friendly "Sunshine" registration period are some examples that highlight the community interest focus. Utilizing standard community practices and accountability mechanisms for registration, enforcement and oversight certainly align with community interest, offering access to all qualified community members and safeguards against abuse. And critical to ongoing community funding challenges is the financial impact of the profit sharing commitments dotgay LLC has made to the gay community.

We continue to support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .GAY with the community in mind, placing needs around safety, visibility and support as a priority. The NGLCCNY believes dotgay LLC's model will prove to receive strong support of the LGBT service and non-profit community, business community, and many end-users, making it a strong new TLD that the gay community can be proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derrick Brown", written over a white background.

Derrick Brown
Executive Director
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce NY
Derrick@NGLCCNY.org
(214) 384-1188, cell



*The International Association
of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender and Intersex
Pride Coordinators*

Gary A. Van Horn Jr.
Co-President

Sue Doster
Co-President

Sent by email

March 14, 2014

InterPride, Inc.
C/O Boston Pride
PO BOX 181074
Boston, MA
02118-0011 USA
www.interpride.org

Dear Mr. Beckstrom, Mr. Dengate-Thrush, and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD).

InterPride is the international association of over 170 organizations that produce Pride Events around the world. Our member organizations are dedicated to producing Pride events for the global Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) community.

Any initiative therefore that has the potential of eradicating homophobia and showing that the LGBTI community is a real and integral part of all communities world-wide is important to us and will always gain our total support. We believe this initiative certainly fall into this category.

As with many communities, the opportunity to share information is critical to keeping not only our history alive, but also in assisting individuals, cities and even countries grow.

As the media landscape changes and technologies continue to amaze us, the Internet and new TLD's like .gay will lend strong support to link LGBT people and resources. ICANN's insight to the importance of the .gay TLD is a valuable one. .gay will help integrate our community building and networking and will provide strong support of our service organizations and businesses through a common platform.

On behalf of our member organizations we ask you give this proposal serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Van Horn Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Gary A. Van Horn Jr.
Co-President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Doster", written in a cursive style.

Sue Doster
Co-President

www.interpride.org