

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.

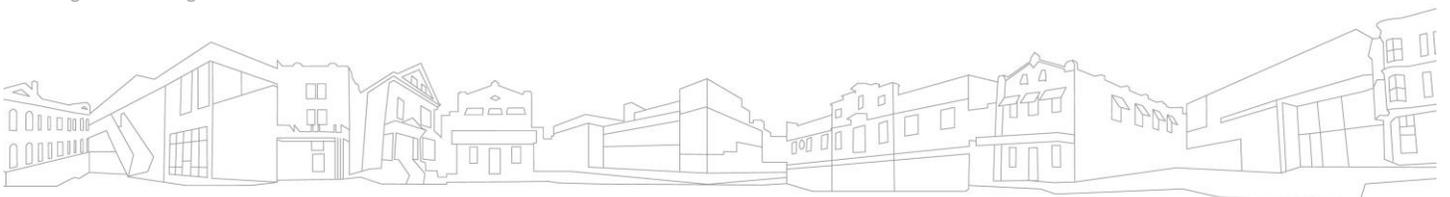
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers was founded in 1994 as a member-based coalition to support the development of strong, sustainable LGBT community centers. Serving over 200 LGBT community centers across the country in 46 states and the District of Columbia, as well as centers in Canada, Israel, 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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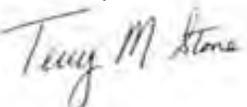
livelihood. It is no question these dreams have not been realized or afforded to all. CenterLink strongly believes ICANN must recognize this community effort for what it is; a chance to shape our own future, create a better experience, take charge of our own destiny and create a community TLD under the 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

