

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Honorable Charles Royer

FROM: Randy Reitel, Charles Brydon, Maurice McKee,
Tom Rasmussen and Michael Shačow

DATE: February 14, 1983

RE: Gay Community

Tom Byers

On Monday, November 22, 1982, the above named community leaders met with you and members of your staff to examine, in light of the recent past, the state of city/gay community relations. The discussion ranged over a diverse spectrum of issues and events from putting out fires to appointments.

The purpose of the memorandum is to delineate the consensus positions expressed during that meeting and to suggest a framework for advancing these consensus positions.

CONSENSUS POSITIONS

1. Concerning the Current Status

- A. The gay community has undergone significant evolution since Initiative 13. The community has evolved into one made up of many diverse groups meeting special needs; i.e., Greater Seattle Business Association, Chemical Dependency Program, The Dorian Group, Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities, Seattle Gay Athletic Association, Metropolitan Community Church, Evangelicals Concerned, Association of Lesbian Professionals of Seattle, The Court of Seattle and the Olympic Empire, Lesbian Resource Center, Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund, Seattle Men's Chorus, the Stonewall Committee; Dignity, Integrity, the gay Jewish congregation, Gay Democrats of Seattle, and Gay Republicans of Washington, to name many but not all.
- B. The community is now a more complex one with many compelling characteristics impacting city/gay community relations. These include:
1. changing leaders and increased sophistication in leadership styles;
 2. increased number of individuals in leadership positions; and
 3. a community that sometimes exhibits internal conflicts.

Memorandum to Mayor Royer (cont)

- C. The community still remains one that is somewhat invisible to itself and others.
- D. During this same period the administration itself has experienced change. With changing personnel the liaison arrangement which once served the city/gay community relationship so well has declined in effectiveness.
- E. This decline combined with the community's evolution has had the following unfortunate results:
 - 1. The administration is inadequately briefed on the community causing the administration unnecessary problems in the community. The administration is never sure who to deal with in the community and is ill prepared to respond to ideas or individuals rising from within the community.
 - 2. There is an absence of forward focused policy/legislation prior consultation with gay community leaders.
 - 3. The current state of the relationship has declined to a nearly exclusive focus of putting out fires. This leaves the only news as bad news and results in a community perception that the administration's commitment to the community has declined.
 - 4. We have very little we can point to over the period since 1978 (Initiative 13) in the way of concrete accomplishments from the relationship between the administration and the gay community.

II. Goals

The goal of both the administration and the community is the tuning-up and maintenance of a proactive cooperative relationship the benefits of which include increased community support for the administration and effective participation by the gay community in the mainstream of city activity.