

Committee on Human Relations

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, On Saturday, November 14th, 2009, 19-year old Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado was brutally murdered and found on a road in the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado's violent murder was motivated by homophobia and transphobia; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 9,168 hate crimes resulting from a bias toward a particular race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, disability or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, The perpetrators of hate crimes seek to dehumanize their victims and to strike fear and terror on specific groups of people in our society; and

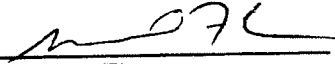
WHEREAS, It is believed that many hate crimes motivated by homophobia or transphobia are underreported or go unreported; and

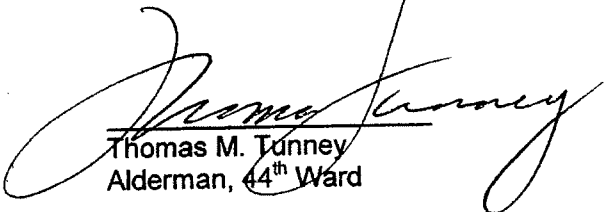
WHEREAS, We should honor the memory of Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado by fully assessing the prevalence of hate crimes in Chicago motivated by homophobia and transphobia; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago should strive to be a national leader in the advocacy of human rights for all its citizens, regardless of sexual orientation or preference; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that a culture of tolerance and understanding be established to discourage hate crime, and appropriate human rights legislation be enacted to allow for the full prosecution of these crimes; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the Chicago City Council assembled here this 2nd day of December, 2009, do hereby request that the City Council Committee on Human Relations conduct a hearing to fully evaluate and analyze hate crimes motivated by homophobia and transphobia in the City of Chicago and to hear from the Chicago Police Department and from pertinent non-for-profit organizations serving Chicago's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer community.


Manuel Flores
Alderman, 1st Ward


Thomas M. Tunney
Alderman, 44th Ward