



Mr. Cherine Chalaby, New gTLD Program Committee, Chair
Mr. Akram Atallah, New Generic Names Division, President
Ms. Christine Willett, New gTLD Program, Vice-President
The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
12025 E Waterfront Dr Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

January 8, 2014

Mr. Chalaby, Mr. Atallah, Ms. Willett,

We are writing with regards to the applications being considered for the .gay TLD. "Gay" is one of many identities that is relevant to our organization and our constituents. It has come to our attention that there are diverse models being considered for how to run a .gay TLD registry, and given our interest we respectfully request that this letter is considered by any evaluators of "Community Priority" for the .gay TLD and treated as official correspondence.

Q Center provides a safe space to support and celebrate LGBTQ diversity, visibility and community building. Q Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization which offers multi-generational programs and services in four core areas: Arts & Culture; Education & Training; Health & Wellness and Advocacy. There are dozens of events and groups that meet here, some focused on specific topics (like coming out or gender identity) and others aimed at fun social interactions (like sing-along piano cabarets or craft nights). Entry to most of these is sliding-scale and run by dedicated volunteers, keeping Q Center truly community-driven and accessible.

We are troubled by the idea that one entity, dotgay LLC specifically, could act as the "community" gatekeeper, both in terms of registration access and content. Being involved in LGBTQ advocacy, we do not agree that dotgay LLC's model represents the best interests of the global LGBTQ spectrum. There are numerous issues with the way it uses "gay" as an umbrella term, and we believe that its closed registration model and ability to censor content will stifle diversity in a significant way.

There are many complex issues involved in LGBTQ terminology, inclusion, and personal identifications, so any registry that is set up for .gay should respect this and not propose to create artificial barriers to entry. We therefore oppose the notion that dotgay LLC can adequately speak for a diverse world of LGBTQ and craft appropriate registration policies.

We have been in contact with both dotgay LLC, and a competitive applicant, Top Level Design LLC, to better understand this issue. After considering the issues and arguments on both sides, Q Center not only opposes dotgay LLC's bid to "authenticate" and restrict access of registrants on .gay, but we support an open registration model given that this seems likely to create a more equitable platform for a diverse world.

Respectfully yours,


Barbara McCullough-Jones
Executive Director