June 24, 2016

RE: Reconsideration Request 16-3

Dear ICANN and the Board Governance Committee,

The tragic shootings at Pulse Nightclub earlier this month in Orlando serve as a painful reminder of the hate that continues to impact the gay community, simply because of how we are perceived, whom we love and how we identify. For seven years now dotgay LLC has identified this risk and the stakeholders subject to hate. As LGBTQIA safe space comes under attack in the real offline world, the need for safer space online is urgent.

dotgay LLC has been amplifying the universally acknowledged fact that the gay community is a recognized target of discrimination and hate. Throughout the new gTLD program we have spoken out on many issues of fairness and inequality that impact the gay community's efforts towards .GAY. On many occasions we and our community endorsers have highlighted the importance of creating a safer LGBTQIA space on the Internet, even providing a community developed plan in our application to have it realized.

Until a time when the anti-gay threat is eradicated, the value of LGBTQIA safe spaces remain crucial in the journey towards full equality and acceptance. Safe spaces to celebrate our legacy and dignity play a vital role in realizing our voice and our universal human rights.

As lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and allies aiming to live life authentically, we are not separate in the eyes of hatred. All are perceived the same to haters, no matter an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Reality however has been put aside and argued away at every opportunity in the new gTLD program, denying the efforts of the global gay community and ignoring public interest concerns.

The hate and violence displayed in Orlando is an offline example of what LGBTQIAs faces online every day. Navigating through life via identifiable safe spaces is a common challenge facing the LGB and TQIA on a daily basis, now more than ever demonstrating we are not over-reaching. This further heightens the points in our application and our mission that outlines the need for better options on the Internet.

GAY is the string the community chose for its virtual safe space, to build as a trusted namespace. To make clear once again, and what has yet to be disputed, GAY is without question the most recognized & inclusive term for the spectrum of LGBTQIA. Globally it also remains the most utilized in a fluid way with other terms referencing the community, and those

talking about "all" or "portions" of LGBTQIA. Perhaps more important however is that under a community built .GAY the LGBTQIA would know they are welcome, just like the spectrum of LGBTQIA patrons at Pulse Nightclub felt welcome in that "gay" bar.

The LGBTQIA footprint on the Internet remains vulnerable. Discrimination, repression and ignorance that prevent the gay community from protecting itself with an approved community gTLD should no longer be acceptable to ICANN and the BGC.

Respectfully,

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