

# THOMAS F. COLEMAN

ATTORNEY AND PERSONAL RIGHTS CONSULTANT

CENTER FOR PRIVACY RIGHTS EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY  
POST OFFICE BOX 6383 • GLENDALE, CA 91205 • (213) 956-0468

Senator Newton Russell  
401 N. Brand  
Suite 424  
Glendale, CA 91205

August 7, 1984

Re: Harassment of Gays  
in Glendale

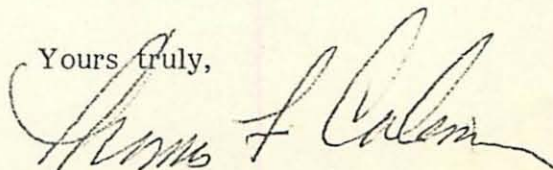
Dear Senator:

I am passing along a communication from two of your constituents to you regarding a growing pattern of verbal harassment and humiliation which they are unjustly experiencing as they walk the streets of Glendale (in broad daylight).

I have several interests in their predicament. First, I am their landlord. Indeed, I encouraged them to move to Glendale because it was a pleasant and safe community. Second, I too am a gay person and have in the past been subjected to verbal harassment of this kind in Glendale. However, since I usually opt to use my car (even for short trips) I no longer suffer from such abuse. Does one have to hide from would-be attackers by driving a car rather than walking short distances?

Third, I recently was appointed to serve as a member of the Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious, and Minority Violence. Violence against individuals because of their membership in an "unpopular group" must stop. We must send a clear signal to would-be attackers that they will be dealt with severely if they engage in such violence or threats of violence. The passage of Assembly Bill 848 is a step in that direction. I urge you to vote yes when it comes up for a final vote in the Senate later this month. I don't want my tenants to wind up like some of the other victims of those who hate gay people (see LA Times article attached). I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



THOMAS F. COLEMAN

cc: John Van De Kamp

August 7, 1984

Dear Senator Newton Russell,

What is happening to Glendale? Is it no longer a safe place to walk or to use its public facilities?

During the past two months on our regular evening walks, the following incidents have occurred.

We were waiting at the cross-light (the corner of Glendale Avenue and Fronta Avenue) when a car with three young white males stopped beside us; and after attracting our attention, they began harassing us by calling out abusive names such as faggots, fags, queers. (We are reluctantly disclosing the actual expressions used, but feel you need them so you will appreciate the full details of the public harassment to which we have been subjected.)

Another time while we were walking away from the corner of Elk Avenue and Glendale Avenue, a car stopped at the light and a different group of white males verbally harassed us by shouting anti-gay remarks.

This last Saturday, August 4 around dusk

while we were strolling east on Doran, again a different group of young, white males in a pick-up truck sped passed and publicly humiliated us by yelling, "Look at the faggots!"

A short time later while continuing homeward south on Glendale Avenue, we crossed Lexington Avenue. A car load of males stopped at that intersection and began a tirade of debasing remarks directed at us. Their shouting of "faggot", "queer", "cocksuckers", "jack me off" continued for several minutes. These obscenities were so loud that surely everyone else at this busy intersection heard those vile remarks.

Recently while we were visiting Brand Park, four young, white males began making anti-gay remarks to us as we were leaving the tea house pavillion. They continued this verbal harassment until we completely left the area.

Why is it becoming impossible for two males to take a pleasurable walk or to use public places for which we pay our share of taxes. We do not walk down the street holding hands. We do not display overt affections out in public. We dress like the majority of other Glendale males on their daily, lawful pursuits.

Can't an average, tax-paying citizen no longer walk the streets of Glendale or use its public facilities without the type of harassment and hatred we have encountered? Please keep in mind how you and your wife would feel, subjected to such venom and sexual insults. We are no different.

Must this harassment, abuse and hatred come to violence before action is taken by our law-makers and law enforcers?

Cordially,

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