

From: Nilsa Irizarry <Nilsa.Irizarry@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 2:41 PM
To: Steve Berlin <Steve.Berlin@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: Re: Invitation to Moderate: Faith and Health Panel on LGBTQ+ Wellness in Chicago

Good afternoon, Steve. I hope this finds you well.

Pardon the delay in sending the follow-up email as requested. I did attend in my official capacity at the invitation of the event sponsor, Pride in the Pews.

Best regards, Nilsa.

Rev. Nilsa Irizarry, MDiv (she/her/ella)

Senior Equity Officer, Office of Racial Equity and Belonging (OREB)

Bureau of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA)

111 W. Washington St. Chicago, IL 60602

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Email address: nilsa.Irizarry@cityofchicago.org

From: Nilsa Irizarry <Nilsa.Irizarry@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 9:51 AM
To: Steve Berlin <Steve.Berlin@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: Fw: Invitation to Moderate: Faith and Health Panel on LGBTQ+ Wellness in Chicago

Good morning, Steve. I hope this finds you well.

I am reaching out to you to get guidance with the invitation below. There are nuances here since I have worked with both organizations in my role as a city employee. In what capacity can I participate in my

role with the city without the honorarium or in my role as a clergywoman not as an employee of the city. Please let me know how I can ensure I am complying with the Board of Ethics.

Best regards,

Rev. Nilsa Irizarry, MDiv (she/her/ella)

Senior Equity Officer

Office of Racial Equity and Belonging (OREB)

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Chicago Department of Public Health

111 W. Washington St. Chicago, IL 60602

Nilsa.Irizarry@cityofchicago.org

From: Don Abram <don@prideinthepews.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 8:00 AM

To: Nilsa Irizarry <Nilsa.Irizarry@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: pryan@centeronhalsted.org <pryan@centeronhalsted.org>; Calvin Taylor <calvin@prideinthepews.com>; bterry@centeronhalsted.org <bterry@centeronhalsted.org>; Tierney Ridley <tierney@prideinthepews.com>; Shameece Peoples <admin@prideinthepews.com>; jrobinson@centeronhalsted.org <jrobinson@centeronhalsted.org>

Subject: Invitation to Moderate: Faith and Health Panel on LGBTQ+ Wellness in Chicago

[Warning: External email]

Dear Nilsa,

Happy New Year! We hope this message finds you and your communities healthy, happy and flourishing.

Pride in the Pews and Center on Halsted have joined forces to advance holistic health and wellness for Chicago's LGBTQ+ communities. The animating force behind this collaboration is the profound reality that Chicago is one of the most religiously diverse cities in the world, with communities of color being

among the most religiously affiliated. People of faith and people of no faith alike contribute to the mosaic of beliefs and worldviews that shape our social, cultural, and political landscapes.

This diversity of belief systems is mirrored in LGBTQ+ communities and has been empirically proven to contribute to improved health outcomes, quality of life, and life expectancy. With nearly half of LGBTQ+ adults identifying as religious, this partnership seeks to address the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals existing at this critical intersection, recognizing that religion plays a significant role in shaping health and well-being for people of faith and people of no faith.

Together, we aim to address the multifaceted needs of individuals by promoting critical dialogue and fostering connections between faith, holistic health, and LGBTQ+ identity. This partnership highlights our shared commitment to the idea of religion as a social determinant of health, and to building strategies, systems, and solutions that promote healing, resilience, and belonging for LGBTQ+ communities and their allies.

In this spirit, Pride in the Pews and Center on Halsted are thrilled to invite you to join us as the panel moderator for our upcoming citywide event, *Faith and Health: A Holistic Approach to LGBTQ+ Wellness in Chicago*. The event will take place on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, from 11:30AM to 1:30 PM, with the program beginning at 12PM, at the Center on Halsted**. To honor your time and labor, we are happy to provide a \$250 honorarium.

This engaging event will bring together civic and community leaders, faith practitioners, and health advocates to explore the intersection of faith and holistic health and wellness within Chicago's LGBTQ+ communities. As a leader in your field, your insights and experiences will provide valuable perspectives on the unique challenges and opportunities in promoting holistic health in marginalized communities.

We would be honored to have you as part of this conversation. Please let us know by Wednesday, January 15th if you are able to participate. If you have any questions or need further details, please reach out to Calvin Taylor, Pride in the Pews' Sr. Director of Programs and Partnerships, at calvin@prideinthepews.com.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our shared mission of fostering holistic well-being for LGBTQ+ Chicagoans and beyond.

In solidarity,

Don Abram, *Founder and CEO, Pride in the Pews* and Joli Robinson, *CEO, Center on Halsted*

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Don Abram, M.Div

Founder and CEO, [Pride in the Pews](#)

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