



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE
212-788-7210

August 12, 2010

Nirav Mehta
President
The Federation of Indian Associations
163 Washington Valley Road, Suite 104
Warren, NJ 07059

Dear Mr. Mehta:

We are writing with respect to the 2010 India Day Parade, which is taking place this Sunday, August 15th.

It has come to our attention that the South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association (SALGA) has not received a response to its multiple inquiries about the status of its application, which, according to the attached USPC receipt, your organization received on July 29th, in advance of the August 1st deadline.

It is absolutely unacceptable if SALGA is being excluded from the India Day Parade because it represents community members who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. We understand that the Federation of Indian Associations has a history of barring SALGA from its parade, and this unfair exclusion must stop this year.

In New York City we pride ourselves on our respect for diversity and the dignity of each person. It is often said that this is our greatest strength. It is our firm belief that any event that celebrates the rich ethnic history of our city should embrace and honor the fact that we are all, each and every one of us, a part of that history.

This week we attempted to reach out to you several times to discuss this matter. Please contact Erik Bottcher in the Speaker's Office about the status of SALGA's application. Erik can be reached by telephone at (212) 788-5646 or by e-mail at ebottcher@council.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker

Daniel Dromm
Council Member

Jimmy Van Bramer
Council Member