



Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose DBA Silicon Valley Pride
1346 The Alameda, PMB 508, Suite 7 San Jose CA 95126-2699
www.svpride.com

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Silicon Valley PRIDE Condemns Stereotyping of the LGBTQ+ Community

SAN JOSE, CA. Oct 25, 2024 – In response to recent allegations involving Omar Torres, Silicon Valley PRIDE and other LGBTQ+ non-profit organizations feel it is important to issue an official statement to address the broader implications for the LGBTQ+ community.

While Silicon Valley PRIDE does not take a position on the specifics of the allegations, the organization firmly stands against acts of sexual violence in any form and wants to be unequivocally clear that child sexual abuse/assault/exploitation, or any other criminal activity, has no place within or connection to the LGBTQ+ community. Incidents like this, regardless of the individuals involved, fuel harmful stereotypes and misrepresentations about the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

As an organization dedicated to promoting equality, acceptance, and understanding, Silicon Valley PRIDE finds it crucial to dispel any unfounded beliefs that members of the LGBTQ+ community are more likely to engage in predatory acts toward minors or other forms of sexual misconduct. Such harmful stereotypes only undermine the progress made toward inclusivity and acceptance.

We condemn all forms of abuse/assault/exploitation and any association with such actions does not reflect the values of our community. Our mission remains to advocate for justice, equality, and the dignity of all people. We are committed to fighting against stereotyping narratives that target marginalized communities.

In light of the ongoing challenges faced by victims of sexual exploitation, we are committed to raising awareness and providing vital resources to support those affected. We encourage those who need these resources to contact the organizations noted below. For further inquiries, please contact, Nicole Altamirano (she/her), Chief Executive Officer of Silicon Valley PRIDE at info@svpride.com.

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Below are organizations providing various services on a national or local level.

Crisis Support	Legal Assistance	Counseling & Mental Health Support
<p>National Human Trafficking Hotline: A 24/7 resource for those in need of immediate help or information regarding human trafficking.</p> <p>http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org</p>	<p>Legal Aid Services: Provides free legal assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking.</p> <p>http://www.lsc.gov</p>	<p>RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network): Offers support and resources for survivors of sexual violence.</p> <p>http://www.rainn.org</p>
Hotlines for Immediate Help	Youth Support Services	Other Services
<p>National Domestic Violence Hotline: Provides support for individuals facing domestic violence, including those affected by sexual exploitation.</p> <p>http://www.thehotline.org</p>	<p>The LGBTQ Youth Space: Offers various local resources and contacts for LGBTQ Youth and others in the greater Silicon Valley area.</p> <p>https://youthspace.org/resources/</p>	<p>County of Santa Clara Office of LGBTQ Affairs: Provides leadership and support for the well-being and longevity of LGBTQ communities in Santa Clara County through coordinated, integrated approaches.</p> <p>https://desj.santaclaracounty.gov/offices/office-lgbtq-affairs</p> <p>County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services: Assists individuals in our community affected by mental illness and serious emotional disturbance</p> <p>https://bhsc.santaclaracounty.gov/home</p>