CITY OF OCEANSIDE

NEWS RELEASE

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2013 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER

The City of Oceanside and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award Program committee are honored to present the 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award to Massimiliano (Max) Disposti. This prestigious honor has been awarded to community members in Oceanside since 1990. The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award recognizes volunteer activity and community service to the residents of Oceanside and non-profit organizations, as well as commitment to positive relationships between different racial, ethnic and cultural communities.

Since 2002, Max Disposti has been involved in creating a diverse Oceanside community through his commitment to community service, non- profit engagement, and by establishing a non-violent social movement and coalition for social equality. Past award recipient Reginald Owens said, "In this day and this society, Max Disposti has gone proudly into places where discussion on LBGT is politely dismissed or shunned entirely. He is courageous to a point where he cannot be compared, and his message that, "everyone is born to shine, not to hide" is one that we all should emulate. Janet Bledsoe Lacy, another past award winner said, " He is being recognized for his courage and leadership for advocating for civil rights, especially for

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equal rights within the LBGT community, including children, families, the military, and other members in our community". Other nominees were Raye Clendening, who is a retired educator and President of the Board of Directors for Vista Community Clinic, and Marcus Sneed, a retired Marine Officer who has devoted countless time to the Boy Scouts of America, and has been the Scoutmaster of Troop 790 on Camp Pendleton for the past 14 years. Past recipient Gwen Sanders stated, "In looking for the person who practiced Dr. King's ideals and philosophy, this candidate was a great choice". Massimiliano Disposti has proudly conveyed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s universal message of social equality and his hopes for our nation's future. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

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