Speech

Client: Hermanos Unidos de Long Beach

Publics: General body members, Board Members, other familias and families

Crisis: Sexual harassment accusation

Good (morning/evening/afternoon) member, board members and familias,

My name is Luis Velazquez am one of the co-chairs for Hermanos Unidos. On the behalf of Hermanos Unidos de Long Beach, I would like to thank you all for coming. I have been with Hermanos Unidos for three years. From the beginning of my time here as an hermano, I have met a lot of exceptional, respectful and caring individuals. I have first-hand been able to see the change of creating “El Nuevo Hombre.”

If it wasn’t for you all here Hermanos Unidos wouldn’t be as strong. Hermanos Unidos de Long Beach has been able to help over 1,000 individuals find their safe area on campus and now they have graduated. The graduates are now helping current members in obtaining jobs and/or internships in their field of study. It is amazing what we can do to make a difference in an individual’s life. Making sure each individual that is part of the organization feels comfortable and is able to improve themselves for the better. Hermanos Unidos provides members with various opportunities to interact with other familias, bringing the unity that is needed in our community. During a event there was an incident that has been brought to our attention.

An hermano was accused of doing an act that no one should do to another individual. At Hermanos Unidos we do not tolerate this type of behavior, what so ever. Everyone should be treated equally and be respected and should never go through that again. The members who are said to be involved in these acts, are currently being questioned on the incident. These types of matters are taken with the full attention of the national board and are not taken lightly. Making sure everyone feels safe around everyone is a priority.

If it is proven that these individuals were involved, they will be dismissed from the organization. This is the first time any type of situation like this has occurred, for this reason in order to prevent any situations similar to this one, we will be hosting workshops in understanding the signs. We will Become more vigilant at all of the events and make sure everything is being done properly. If any member see’s something communicating with steering is a key component in not allowing these incidents to not occur. It is truly saddening to see these types of incidents occurring within this familia. If you have information regarding the incident please speak up and do not allow any type of fear holding you back from talking.

We appreciate everyone’s help in this time; we are deeply disappointed that this has occurred. Creating the Nuevo Hombre is our top priority, breaking the stereotypes placed among each and everyone of us. Including the toxic viewpoints that have been instilled into our culture we want to make everyone aware why there needs to be a change. We value everyone who has came out to support us since the very first day. We want to maintain Hermanos Unidos as a safe space for everyone, no matter what familia they are from.

¡Fuerza a todos! ¡Fuerza en la Hermandad!