# Debate Erupts Over Rainbow Lifeguard Tower in Long Beach



**Rainbow-Colored Lifeguard Tower Unveiled in Long Beach**

In 2021, a lifeguard tower painted in rainbow colors was unveiled in Long Beach. This installation aimed to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community. However, controversy arose when an L.A. County lifeguard expressed opposition to the flying of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag, citing "deeply held religious beliefs." This incident has sparked widespread debate.

The lifeguard, stationed at Will Rogers State Beach, an area known for its significance to the gay community since the late 1960s, has drawn criticism for potentially not being able to perform his duties impartially. Public responses have varied, with some individuals questioning whether such personal beliefs should interfere with public service roles. The situation has highlighted the ongoing tensions between personal beliefs and professional responsibilities.