



3112 Park Place NW
Washington, DC 20010

18 December 2009

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief, Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chief Lanier:

We are writing to inquire about the implementation status of MPD General Order 501.02 – Handling Interactions with Transgender Individuals, which you approved on 16 October 2007. As you are well aware, we worked closely with your office in drafting this order, and we are currently seeking to ensure that the rights of transgender, transsexual, gender non-conforming (hereafter “trans”) and intersex individuals are being respected in accordance with this policy. In addition, we have a few questions related to MPD’s reporting obligations under the DC Bias-related Crimes Act, as well as training being undertaken for officers in the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) and the broader force. Our specific questions are as follows:

Data Collection

- What do records indicate regarding number of calls received from trans individuals and the corresponding police service response rate?
- How have dispatchers handled cases known to involve trans individuals, based upon the MOU that MPD was to work out with the Office of Unified Communications?
- Have any individuals expressed an objection to being searched by a male or female officer? Are such objections properly noted?

Police Conduct

- How many trans-related complaints against officers have been forwarded to GLLU?
- Have any disciplinary actions taken against MPD members for violation of General Order 501.02?
- Are there plans to revive the Fair and Inclusive Policing Task Force, and if so, what will be the task force’s mandate?

Transportation and Housing

- Are trans arrestees being properly identified as at risk, and being transported/housed separately from others?
- Are trans arrestees allowed to maintain possession of "appearance related items" that do not pose a safety threat?
- Have any trans arrestees required medical treatment, and if so, has this been provided with the same urgency as for all other arrestees?

Training Programs

- Trans community members recently had the opportunity to review the online training materials used across the force to explain the general order and provide some basic information about trans issues. We understand that this online training course replaces an in-service training program that was developed with community members and offered in person at the police academy. Are there any plans to revive this training in an in-person format?
- It is our understanding that GLLU affiliate officers will each be detailed to the central GLLU for 2-3 months over the course of 2010. Can you elaborate on those plans, particularly with regard to what activities officers might engage in during these details, aside from regular patrol/response duties?
- We have learned through media reports that MPD will be offering in-depth, advanced training for the new GLLU affiliate officers in June 2010. What plans are in place to seek community input in developing this training, and will relevant community organizations be given sufficient time and opportunity to prepare and deliver content at this training?
- Several DCTC members were invited at the last minute to introduce new SLU affiliate officer-volunteers to trans issues as part of their initial training. At that session, concerns were raised by the officers indicating a widespread belief across the police force that all trans individuals are HIV positive, and that many were reluctant to respond to calls involving trans individuals. What plans are in place to keep all MPD personnel aware of protocols related dealing with persons with HIV/AIDS and to dispel this kind of exceptionally harmful stereotyping?
- At the same training, most of the volunteer SLU officers expressed clear ignorance about the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as a general confusion about which pronouns to use when referring to trans individuals, what public gender-segregated facilities trans individuals are legally allowed to use, and how to process and house trans individuals in police custody. Given that potential GLLU officers appear to lack a basic understanding of trans issues outlined in General Order 501.02, what steps are being taken to train the entire police force on these issues to ensure that officers interact with trans individuals safely and respectfully?

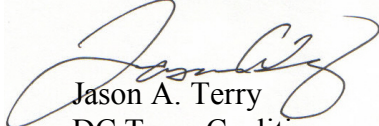
Bias-related Crimes

- What is the status of any outstanding investigations regarding trans-related bias crimes and what activities are being undertaken to investigate those cases? This includes cold cases, as well as more recent crimes such as the murder of Tyli'a Mack.
- Christopher Dyer has said publicly that MPD is working to correct its omission of trans-related crime data from the 2005-2008 bias crime statistics. What is the process for undertaking this correction? Are these crimes currently reported as sexual orientation related, or have they not been reported at all?

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and for your continued cooperation in ensuring that the DC Human Rights Act is fully applied across the district. We value our strong working relationships with members of the DC Government, and look forward to continued progress in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Jason A. Terry
DC Trans Coalition

cc: Peter Nickles, Attorney General
Gustavo Velasquez, Director, Office of Human Rights
Christopher Dyer, Director, Office of GLBT Affairs
Charles J. Willoughby, Inspector General
Philip K. Eure, Executive Director, Office of Police Complaints
Vincent Gray, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Yvette Alexander, Council of the District of Columbia
Muriel Bowser, Council of the District of Columbia
Michael Brown, Council of the District of Columbia
Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia
Jack Evans, Council of the District of Columbia
Jim Graham, Council of the District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Council of the District of Columbia
Heidi Tseu, Clerk, DC Council Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary
Richard Rosendall, Vice Present for Political Affairs, Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance
Chris Farris, Co-chair, Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence
Jeff Richardson, President, Gertrude Stein Democratic Club