



**Testimony on PR22-0085,
"Police Complaints Board
Bobbi Strang Confirmation Resolution of 2017"**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Public Safety
April 10, 2017

Chairman Allen and Committee members, GLAA is pleased to endorse PR22-0085, the "Police Complaints Board Bobbi Strang Confirmation Resolution of 2017." Please support Bobbi Elaine Strang's continuance on the Police Complaints Board, where she has served since the fall of 2015.

GLAA was part of the coalition that successfully pushed in the late 1990s for establishment of independent review of police complaints. The Police Complaints Board (PCB) and the Office of Police Complaints (OPC) are the fulfillment of that effort to increase police accountability to District citizens. Bobbi has been a diligent and thoughtful member of PCB.

Bobbi's professional skills as a claims examiner in the Office of Workers' Compensation at the DC Department of Employment Services are an asset in her role at PCB, as were her prior duties as a workforce development specialist in Project Empowerment. Her community advocacy is a further asset, demonstrating her commitment to service and establishing her personal connection to the concerns at the heart of PCB's mission. In addition to being a volunteer and officer with GLAA, she has served on the boards of the DC Anti-Violence Project (DCAVP), the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, and her church, and has volunteered with the DC Center for the LGBT Community.

As a transgender woman who has found professional success and made her home in the District due to its trans-affirming policies, Bobbi brings an invaluable perspective to PCB's work, whether she is reviewing citizen complaints or evaluating OPC policy recommendations. We share her concern regarding police interactions with citizens exercising their First Amendment rights, an area where PCB oversight is essential.

We therefore urge the Council to support Bobbi Elaine Strang's continued service on the Police Complaints Board.

Sincerely,

Guillaume R. Bagal
President