



# **LGBTQ ALLYSHIP**

ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

October 10, 2013

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**LGBTQ ALLYSHIP *presents* LGBTQ COMMUNITY TOWN HALL ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY;  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2013 @ 6:00PM-8:00PM  
@SOUTHSIDE COMMONS (3518 S. Edmonds Street, Seattle, WA 98118)  
(Located in Columbia City)**

**Seattle, WA---**Please join LGBTQ Allyship on **Monday, October 21, 2013** from **6:00pm to 8:30pm** at the Southside Commons in Columbia City (3518 S. Edmonds Street, Seattle, WA 98118) for our **“LGBTQ Community Town Hall on Police Accountability.”** Food, beverages, and ASL interpretation will be provided. During the month of October 2013, LGBTQ Allyship is working with Entre Hermanos to get the word out to LGBTQ communities about opportunities to provide feedback to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) on the Seattle Police Department (SPD) regarding documented incidents of stops and detentions, bias policing, and use of excessive force. **Entre Hermanos will be holding a forum in Spanish on October 17, 2013 at their offices on Capitol Hill, 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 (contact [Roxana@entrehermanos.org](mailto:Roxana@entrehermanos.org) for more information).**

**The community will be given information about the Department of Justice (DOJ) findings on the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and recommendations from the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) for police reform. Audience surveys and feedback will be documented and included in reports from LGBTQ Allyship to the CPC.**

LGBTQ Allyship, as an organization that works towards social and economic justice, wanted to add their unique voice alongside the diverse voices across the LGBTQ community to this effort. We will present DOJ research from their investigation of the SPD and ask for specific feedback about what will be court mandated recommendations around issues such as use of excessive force and bias.

**LGBTQ ALLYSHIP** is organizing for social and economic justice and believes in making visible the voice and experiences of the most vulnerable in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. We have a long history of organizing, educating, and advocating for members within the LGBTQ community who are at the intersections of race, class, age, and more. *We have served and worked with LGBTQ members from low-income, homeless, immigrant, women’s, and people of color, seniors, youth, and working class backgrounds.*

LGBTQ Allyship works towards connecting issues in alliance with others within Seattle and King County's broader social justice community and movements to fight for healthcare for all, homelessness, immigrants' rights, and more. We want to insure *the voices of LGBTQ communities are heard and considered around issues of police accountability, which is an economic justice issue.*

**Entre Hermanos and LGBTQ Allyship** acquired a joint grant from the City of Seattle along with other organizations such as Chinese Information Services, El Rey 1360AM (owned by SeaMar), One America, the Public Defender Associations-Racial Disparity Project, Safe Futures Youth Center, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, Sojourner Truth Technical Services in partnership with APRI & Mother's For Police Accountability, Teen Feed, Therapeutic Health Services, and Vietnamese Friendship Association. **Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC)**, which was formed after the 2010 shooting death by Seattle police of First Nations woodcarver, John T. Williams, will provide technical assistance to the above mentioned community organizations.

**The CPC** is an independent entity whose purpose is to engage the community and ensue public input to police reform. After a federal investigation of the SPD, the City of Seattle signed a settlement with the DOJ to reform SPD practices. The social service and community organizations chosen represent a diverse populations within Seattle communities and will be acquiring feedback from the community for CPC to gather into a report that reflect community's recommendations. The settlement agreement requires police reform with specific dates for revising policies and practices of the SPD. The CPC states, "The U.S. District Court oversees the process and the work, and it has authority to ensure reform occurs or to provide consequences." This is why meaningful community input is crucial and has been built into the process. The CPC will report on their findings to the City of Seattle, SPD, DOJ, and Monitor in early November and then discuss reports and recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and the community from all of the outreach efforts of all community partners including LGBTQ Allyship's Town Hall, Focus Group, and surveys. By the end of the year the court will decide whether to accept or reject recommendations. For more information about the CPC process go to [www.seattle.gov/policecommission](http://www.seattle.gov/policecommission) or contact them at 206-233-2664 or [OCPC@seattle.gov](mailto:OCPC@seattle.gov).

**LGBTQ Allyship** is excited to be part of this historic citywide effort on Police Accountability, which community members have been organizing around for years, to gather specific feedback from diverse LGBTQ communities and their experience with police. Please support this effort by filling out our survey (online, in person, and/or at one of our community events) and attending our events (focus group and/or Town Hall Community Forum). To acquire information about surveys, event materials,

\*\*\* **We will not be collecting testimony involving incidents involving police.** Please contact the Office for Professional Accountability (OPA) to make an anonymous complaint at [opa@seattle.gov](mailto:opa@seattle.gov) or 206-684-8797 or find them on the web at [www.seattle.gov/police/OPA](http://www.seattle.gov/police/OPA)

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***Special thank you to Entre Hermanos, a Seattle LGBTQ Latino social service organization, for their collaborative efforts & support. They will be conducting a Spanish only LGBTQ event, please contact [Roxana@entrehermanos.org](mailto:Roxana@entrehermanos.org) for more information!***

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**For more information:**

**Web:** <http://lgbtqallyship.org/>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LGBTQAllyship>  
**Twitter:** @allyship #LGBTQPoliceAccountability