



Via electronic mail and hand delivery

January 18, 2012

Chief Ronal Serpas
New Orleans Police Department
1300 Perdido St.
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Chief Ronal Serpas and esteemed members of the New Orleans Police Department,

Thank you for offering *BreakOUT!* the opportunity to develop a training video for your officers about the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in New Orleans.

Our youth members, along with the film crew FosterBear Productions, have worked tirelessly to get this video to you in time for your late-January training for NOPD officers.

We hope that you will find the video to be informative and helpful as we work toward strengthening relationships between the NOPD and the LGBTQ community, particularly transgender young women and youth of color. We hope that this video will be able to be shown to all in-service officers as well as new recruits and can be integrated as a part of your regular training curriculum.

As you know, abuses against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community, especially African American LGBTQ youth and transgender women, are a top concern with the Department of Justice. At the same time, violence in the City has recently increased, including the recent murders of two transgender community members.

To this end, we hope that this video also sparks additional dialogue about ways we can help reform the NOPD to one that is rooted in best practices and can work toward becoming a model department for the treatment of LGBTQ community members. We have been in communication with several representatives from your policy and training departments to discuss some of our recommendations, who have been extremely gracious with their time.

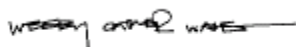
Specifically, *BreakOUT!* would like to see:

- The implementation of a LGBTQ policy, similar to Washington, D.C., San Francisco, or the proposed New York City policy, which have all been provided to your Department and can be made available again upon request.

- Model training conducted in the Department, with national experts working with local representatives to train every officer on the force. We are happy to help identify individuals who would be willing to help conduct such training, possibly free of charge.
- A seat on any community Advisory Boards that may be developed as the NOPD works to strengthen community relations.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this and thank you in advance for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,



Wesley C. Ware

CC:

Deputy Superintendent Stephanie Landry
Commander Bernell Nevil
Captain Ernest Demma