



Chief Calvin Williams
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cc: Gordon Friedman, gfriedman@clecpc.org
Jason Goodrick, jgoodrick@clecpc.org

February 28, 2019

Dear Chief Williams, Mr. Singletary, Mr. Barge, and Ms. Hardaway:

We were encouraged to hear at the February 25, 2019 meeting that the Division intends to create a full GPO that covers best practices for interacting with transgender and gender non-conforming Clevelanders. We look forward to providing input on this forthcoming GPO.

However, we feel strongly that, whether or not there is an additional GPO created related to LGBTQ individuals, the current GPOs must include two simple protections for transgender and gender non-conforming Clevelanders. The two necessary additions are:

1. In Body Cavity and Strip Searches GPO: When possible, during any strip search of a transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming person, have the search conducted by either of three options: (1) a medical provider, (2) a female officer, or (3) an officer of the gender identity with which the person is most comfortable.
 - a. Strip searches are often traumatizing for all people. This is particularly so for transgender and gender non-conforming Clevelanders. We understand there are times that staffing levels or exigent circumstances mean that none of the three options are feasible. But when one of these three options is available it must be used to build community trust and reduce opportunities for harassment. Such a policy aligns with PREA and IACP standards as well as the welcoming spirit of the nondiscrimination ordinances recently passed by both the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

2. In Search and Seizure GPO: Prohibit officers from using any search, including pat-downs/frisks, to determine a subject's sex.
 - a. We have heard reports that this has happened in the past. Whether or not this practice continues to happen – or at what frequency – there is no harm, and indeed great value, in adding this prohibition to the GPO. This addition is an important part of building trust and respect with the transgender and gender non-conforming community.

These additions are crucial to protecting *all* members of our community, including those who are transgender and gender non-conforming. We respectfully request that you contact us if you see issues with these additions.

Sincerely,



Emily Meyer
Legal Clinic Attorney
Equality Ohio



Gwen Stenbridge
Statewide Civic Engagement Director
Equality Ohio



James Knapp
Chair
Trans Ohio



Jocelyn Rosnick
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