

Policing and the Queer Community - Community Consultation

Facilitators Notes

Please take a few moments to introduce yourself and allow people around the table to introduce themselves to each other and talk briefly about what brought them to the consultation tonight - no more than 1.5 minutes each please.

Go over the guidelines with the group and explain that we'd like people to observe them so that everyone can participate fully and equitably.

- a. We believe that everyone's experience and feelings about their experience is valid.
- b. We will protect the confidentiality of members of the group.
- c. We will allow the speaker to finish their comments
- d. We will speak one at a time.
- e. The facilitator will challenge homophobic, racist, sexist, or otherwise oppressive remarks.
- f. The facilitator may ask you to wrap up your comments in the interest of ensuring time for everyone to speak.
- g. Notetakers will be recording people's comments, but will not record names or other identifying information.

Please let people know that if they would like to leave their contact information we can forward them a report compiling survey and focus group results. You can refer them to the survey as well. All respondents' confidentiality is guaranteed.

Before asking the questions, present the following introductory comments.

The Minutes of Settlement from the Toronto Women's Bathhouse complaint specify a number of agreements, including:

1. Recruitment of GLBT people for the Police Service
2. Adoption of a policy respecting the search and detention of trans-gendered people.
3. Development of a gender-sensitive policy for police officers who are attending at events where women are partially or totally naked.
4. Preparation, delivery and evaluation of training that will address GLBT issues and that will ensure that inspections of liquor licenses and special occasion permits at gay/lesbian venues and businesses, attendance at gay/lesbian bathhouses for the purpose of investigating suspected infractions of the Liquor License Act (LLA) or Regulations, and the search, arrest and detention of transgendered people is conducted in accordance with the Human Rights Code.

Two different training programs will be developed for delivery to current and future investigators who will supervise or carry out LLA investigations, and to current and future police officers of all ranks.

Further information about the training and other terms of settlement are available in the handouts at the front table.

If there is time, we would also like to hear your opinions about more general issues of policing in our community, how training should be delivered, and what positive experiences you have had with Toronto police.

Currently, all front-line and support officers and civilian staff with the Toronto Police Service (TPS) have or will receive training on diversity issues in either Advanced Patrol Training (APT) or Uniform Policing and Diversity Training. Every frontline uniform officer takes APT for four days each year until they complete a mandatory three-year curriculum that includes Use of Force, First Aid, Crisis Intervention, Policing and Diversity, as well as other topics. Diversity and other subjects are to be woven into discussion and exercises throughout this skills-based training.

The Gay & Lesbian Issues section of the Policing and Diversity course is delivered by two members of the LGBT community, and is 120 minutes in total. Issues covered include: a brief overview of Toronto gay and lesbian historical issues, a discussion of LGBT stereotypes (to deconstruct myths about gays and lesbians), provision of information/clarity about current LGBT community issues. There is also time for student questions and answers.

Please ask everyone at the table to answer the following questions. Provide an opportunity for everyone to speak, by going around the table one by one, although if anyone would like to pass, they should be allowed to do so. Participants should only speak for a couple of minutes each. We have about 1½ - 2 hours for the discussion, so there will only be about 20 minutes available for each question. Try to move through all of the questions, while ensuring that people can contribute their thoughts.

- a. What has your experience been with respect to the following issues?
 - i) inspection of liquor licenses and special occasion permits
 - ii) investigations conducted at gay/lesbian bathhouses
 - iii) police searches and detention of transgendered/transsexual people

- b. What recommendations do you have about the content of police policy in relation to these issues?
 - i) inspection of liquor licenses and special occasion permits
 - ii) investigations conducted at gay/lesbian bathhouses
 - iii) police searches and detention of transgendered/transsexual people

- c. What information about the LGBTTTQ community should police have covered in their training?

- d. What suggestions do you have about how the training should be done?

- e. If you've had a positive contact with the Toronto Police Service – what made the interaction positive?

The people at your table may not have lots to say about the first two questions. If that is so and you have time available, please feel free to ask people to talk about any of the following:

- f. What is your opinion about the quality of the policing of LGBTTTQ partner abuse, hate crimes committed against LGBTTTQ people, and other violence issues in Toronto?
- g. What is your opinion about the quality of the policing of LGBTTTQ people when they ask for Toronto police assistance?
- h. What is your opinion about the quality of the policing of LGBTTTQ events in Toronto?
- i. What recommendations would you make to the Toronto Police Service to help them to improve their services to the LGBTTTQ community?



Print - Close Window

CC: chanelle.gallant@rogers.com, lezcarol@hotmail.com, "Richard Carrier-Bragg" <rjscarrier_bragg@hotmail.com>, "Janet Rowe" <janetjrowe@yahoo.ca>, "JP Hornick" <jhornick@gbrownc.on.ca>, "Carlyle Jansen" <carlyle@rogers.com>, lgillis@passport.ca

From: "Anna Willats" <awillats@sympatico.ca>

Subject: My comments and facilitator's notes

Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2005 22:42:08 -0400

To: mike.glover@sympatico.ca, daniellehowson@hotmail.com

Hi Mike and Danielle - here are my comments and the facilitator's notes.
I'm cc'ing this to members of the Committee that has organized the evening.

See you tomorrow.
Anna

Agenda:

7:00 - Greetings and introduction of speakers - Anna
7:10 - Speaker - Janet Rowe
7:20 - Speaker - Leila Sarangi, Police Complaints Project
7:30 - Break out to tables for small group discussion

7:30 - 9:30 - Small group discussion
9:30 - Wrap up

Introduction

I want to thank everyone for coming tonight and taking the time to contribute to the work of helping to ensure that the police services that are offered to the queer community are equitable, sensitive to our community's needs, and meet the highest standards.

We're going to ask people to organize themselves into tables of 8 to 10 people - feel free to sit where you like. We ask any Deaf participants to sit at one table together (I'll indicate a table), so that the ASL interpreters can work with all of you. Our facilitators and note-takers will take you through a short series of questions about your experience with police in different situations, and your recommendations about a number of issues. The facilitators will fill you in about our guidelines for our discussion and the specific questions we'd like you to answer.

We'll be putting together a report for the Police Training Unit that captures your comments and recommendations. Please leave your contact info. with the facilitators if you'd like to receive that report.

We'd also like to invite you to take a survey with you to share with others or to record any other information you'd like us to have.

We will start with two speakers. Janet Rowe is a past member of the Toronto

Women's Bathhouse Committee and the current program manager here at the 519. She will share some information with us about the raid that led to the Pussy Palace lawsuit and human rights complaint.

Following Janet, Leila Sarangi, from the Scadding Court Community Centre Police

Complaints Project will take a few minutes to tell us about how Toronto citizens can pursue

complaints against police officers. Following Leila's remarks, we'll move to tables

and begin the consultation. We plan to wrap up at around 9:30 pm.

Thanks again for your participation.

Plain Text Attachment

Attachments

Files:

 Facilitators_notes.rtf (16k)