



October 14, 2010

Edward A. Flynn  
Chief of Police  
Milwaukee Police Administration Building  
749 West State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Flynn:

The undersigned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) organizations and allies are writing to ask you to publicly appoint a Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) Liaison to the LGBT community.

On September 16, 2010, your/our Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission met to discuss the murder of Chanel (Dana) Larkin, an African-American transgender woman murdered on May 7<sup>th</sup> during a sexual negotiation. In our efforts to talk about how similar murders might be prevented, it became clear that the MPD representatives present were not aware of the many LGBT resources available to them and to citizens, including the "Hope for Healing: A Guide for LGBT Victims of Crime in Milwaukee" (enclosed) and organizations that have been providing support services to LGBT Milwaukeeans for more than 15 years. It was their request – which the other community representatives present endorsed – that much more be done to develop ties between the MPD and the local LGBT community.

We believe the appointment of an LGBT Liaison would be the obvious first step in implementing this recommendation. Many cities much smaller than Milwaukee already have such liaisons (indeed, the Burlington, VT police and Dallas County Sheriff's liaisons serve on FORGE's national multidisciplinary advisory board). These liaisons have a variety of assignments, but basically serve as a communications conduit between the LGBT community and its police department, answering questions, disseminating information, building relationships, and generally helping ensure that both the LGBT community and MPD officers have full knowledge of and access to each others' resources and services.

Now would be a particularly opportune time to appoint an LGBT Liaison. Since May, the Milwaukee LGBT community has sustained at least four deaths from separate criminal acts. In the Chanel Larkin case alone, there have been five community meetings, several meetings with the District Attorney's office, two public vigils, two transgender 101 trainings, the Homicide Review Team meeting, a court watch, a *Journal Sentinel* op-ed, and multiple news releases, with more actions in the planning stages. Similar follow-up work may be done in the Rosalind Ross (domestic violence) death. Now would be a great time to support this critical LGBT anti-violence and community-building work by publicly appointing an MPD LGBT Liaison to work with us.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact michael munson at 414-559-2123 or [mmunson@forge-forward.org](mailto:mmunson@forge-forward.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Munson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

michael munson  
Executive Director  
FORGE



Also endorsed by:

Tina Owen  
Lead Teacher  
Alliance School

Maria Cadenas  
Executive Director  
Cream City Foundation

Gary Hollander, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Diverse and Resilient, Inc.

Meredith Leischer  
Facilitator  
Gemini Gender Group

Maryann K. Clesceri, LCSW  
Executive Director  
The Healing Center

Maggi Cage, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

Rev. Wendy Woodruff  
Pastor  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church

Georgia Henry  
Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and  
Gay Men, Milwaukee Chapter

Daniel O. Magnuson, M.A., M.S.W.  
President/CEO  
Pathfinders

Scott D. Gunkel  
President  
PrideFest

Bill Serpe  
Executive Director  
SAGE Milwaukee

Louis Weisberg  
Publisher/Editor in Chief  
Wisconsin Gazette

cc: Nicole Robinson, Homicide Review Commission

*FORGE*

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