

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EQUALITY ILLINOIS PRAISES CHICAGO TRANSGENDER ORDER
LGBT Rights Organization Credits Community, Mayor and Police Department**

CHICAGO—Equality Illinois today congratulated the Chicago Police Department, the office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and our coalition allies for a new police department general order on the respectful treatment of transgender individuals.

The two-year community based dialog with the city culminated in the implementation of the order on Aug. 22 by Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy.

Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest LGBT advocacy organization, praised the work of the numerous community groups and individuals who participated in the coalition talks with the city, especially Jennifer Ritter, executive director of the Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC), Christina Kahrl, Equality Illinois Board member, and June Latrobe, the transgender liaison at Center on Halsted.

"This demonstrates what can be accomplished by an open-minded city administration and all segments of the LGBT community when we work with determination, cooperation and respect toward a common goal," Cherkasov said.

Among those deeply involved in the advocacy and lengthy negotiations was Kahrl, a leading Chicago activist on transgender issues.

"This is progress to be sure," Kahrl said, adding that work still needs to be done with the department and the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to create the training and oversight needed to implement the order and make sure it is followed. "We are confident that we will achieve that," she said.



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Kahrl noted that the order was accomplished after historical barriers in police-community relations were overcome. “This is one of the first times the police department worked with community groups to create policy. That is a huge step in the history of the city of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department,” she said.

The full order can be read at

<http://directives.chicagopolice.org/directives/data/a7a57b38-1394a4ae-75313-94a4-b606a68cfab99615.html?hl=true> . As described by Windy

City Times, “The order mandates that police not search transgender people in an attempt to determine their gender, that officers respect preferred names and pronouns for transgender detainees and that they not use someone's gender identity as assumed cause for a crime. It further bans derogatory language against trans people.”

Kahrl emphasized that the public needs to monitor the effectiveness of the order and share their experiences after contact with police. “We need to hear from the community,” she said.

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