

For Immediate Release  
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**LGBTQ DEMOCRATS CALL ON NY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES  
TO CEASE COLLABORATION WITH BORTAC**

Compelled by its abject nature and half-witted cruelty towards the most marginalized, the Trump Administration has tasked the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency with a nationwide plan to deploy militarized border patrol units into sanctuary cities. Each of the cities targeted, including New York, are led by Democratic administrations and have demonstrated some form of pushback to Trump's immigration policies.

As the New York Times recently reported, these tactical agents, known formally as BORTAC, function as a SWAT-like unit and are equipped "with additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification." Additionally, the Times reported "the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records". BORTAC agents will be tasked with supporting local immigration raids through an excessive demonstration of power and reflects the growing concern the LGBTQ community has towards the militarization of law enforcement agencies.

With no present checks to restrict, limit, or otherwise dampen the power these law enforcement agencies have over immigrant families, it is unclear how much further the Trump administration will go to enforce its immigration policies – even at the expense of State rights. These policies and actions by the administration will only foster further tension between communities and the institutions that are meant to protect them, including the NYPD.

As New York State's LGBTQ+ political organization, we lead the charge for addressing the needs and rights of the LGBTQ+ community. This includes highlighting the extraordinary risks in the deportation of queer people of color, particularly transgender and gender non-confirming individuals, to countries where their safety is at risk.

We call on all New York State law enforcement agencies to refuse any cooperation with Border Patrol. The Trump administration has demonstrated countless times that it has no regard for the well-being of the most marginalized. Its negligent and haphazard animosity towards immigrants has only created a community of distrust and hatred towards institutions that purport themselves to be in the best interest of the people. The long-reaching harm of these policies may not be realized now but it is assured we all bear the consequences of reinforcing and supporting the actions of a dangerous President. New York City must lead by example and safeguard undocumented families with all of its integrity.

**Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn  
Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC  
Lesbian Gay Democratic Club of Queens  
Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club  
Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats**