

For immediate release. March 4th, 2024

The LGBTQ+ organizations and the organizations that serve LGBTQ+ individuals signing below stand in solidarity with Celena Morrison-McLean and Darius McLean, who are our valued employees, Board members, and community stakeholders.

First, we want to update our communities that Celena Morrison-McLean and Darius McLean have returned home safely following Saturday's arrest on the Vine Street Expressway in Center City Philadelphia. We will now be turning our attention towards supporting them following the terrible abuse they suffered. We are grateful to the many community members and leaders who stepped into action to ensure that Darius and Celena were able to get home as quickly as possible and that their families were kept up to date.

While we await further investigation, we want to be clear: We believe that actions by State Police from the Belmont Barracks this weekend can be seen as yet another example in the long institutional history of over-policing and disproportional outcomes against Black, Brown, and LGBTQ+ people, particularly Black trans people.

Our organizational leadership will be following up with both Governor Shapiro and Mayor Parker to ensure that our voices are heard and that Celena Morrison-McLean, Darius McLean, and our communities receive proper transparency and accountability regarding this traumatic traffic stop and arrest in the heart of our own city.

In solidarity,

<p>Chris Bartlett Executive Director William Way LGBT Community Center</p>	
<p>Marquita Bolden Executive Director Therapy Center of Philadelphia</p>	
<p>Tyrell Brown Executive Director galaei</p>	
<p>Ashley Coleman Executive Director Bradbury- Sullivan LGBT Center</p>	

<p>Andre H. Ford, PhD Executive Administrator The COLOURS Organization</p>	
<p>Michael Grosberg Board President DVLf</p>	
<p>John Jarboe Founder and Artistic Director Bearded Ladies Cabaret</p>	
<p>Jasper Liem Executive Director The Attic Youth Center</p>	
<p>Sultan Shakir President and Executive Officer Mazzoni Center</p>	
<p>Le Thomas President Philadelphia Black Pride</p>	
<p>Evelyn Torres Executive Director Action Wellness</p>	
<p>Zach Wilcha Chief Executive Officer Independence Business Alliance</p>	