

Pride Returns (again)

The new millennium saw a new spark in LGBTQ activism in Cincinnati. Young activist Chris Good brought the Pride parade back, this time in Northside, a neighborhood with an established LGBT community. The march brought Cincinnati's LGBT community back into public view. Local news speculated that the city was becoming more sympathetic to LGBT rights, and that the national boycott, once scoffed at, was actually losing the city tens of millions of dollars. Stonewall struggled in the late 1990s, but by 2002 the organization was becoming more inclusive and focused on building coalitions. Although they had originally declined to join GLMA's Boycott Cincinnati campaign, after Cincinnati's 2001 riots they joined the effort to Boycott the city until it restored LGBT protections and improved race relations.

Solitary Suit

In 2000, Philecia Barnes sued the city of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Police Department for discrimination. Barnes, a black Transgender woman who had worked for CPD since 1981, was transitioning her gender in 1998 when she passed her Sergeant's exam. After the test, CPD singled Barnes out for scrutiny and put her through a wringer of extra supervision and tests that none of her colleagues had to endure. CPD then demoted Barnes in 1999.

Barnes, with Attorney Al Gerhardstein, successfully argued that Barnes had been harassed and discriminated against because of gender expression. The city of Cincinnati claimed the Police Department had been well within their rights to demote her. Without Transgender-specific protections from the state or city, Gerhardstein argued that the treatment of Barnes violated the sex discrimination clause of the Civil Rights Act. In 2005, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed, ordering the city to pay over \$800,000 in compensation and legal fees.

