



*****Media Advisory*****

For Immediate release on June 17, 2015

Contact: Fred Ginyard, (215) 892-7087 (cell)

**FIERCE Launches “QOL Bow Down” Campaign
Queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color must have access to public space in NYC
without fear of violent or racialized policing.**

What: Press conference: FIERCE launches queer, trans, and gender non-conforming youth-led campaign “QOL Bow Down”

When: Wednesday, June 17th, 4:00pm

Where: New York City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

Why: Across New York City, elected officials, NYPD officers and community organizations are debating the violent and racialized implementation of Broken Windows Policing. The impacts of the NYPD’s broken police practices have far-reaching and lasting detrimental impacts on queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color who live in our city. FIERCE believes New York City’s Quality of Life laws, housed in the Administrative Code of New York, have been one of the primary tools the NYPD has used to implement Broken Windows Theory and to target, harass, and push out queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color from communities they have historically considered a safe spaces. The impacts of Quality of Life laws and Broken Windows policing on queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color have gone largely unnoticed by many elected officials in New York City. FIERCE believes that this must change, that the voices and experiences of queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color must be at the forefront of conversation and action meant to reform New York City’s broken police practices, and that true “quality of life” can’t be achieved at the expense of queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color.

Queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color face many hardships while surviving in New York City. Broken Windows policing and Quality of Life laws only exacerbate the challenges these youth face. FIERCE believes true “quality of life” can’t be achieved by one community at the expense of another. The City of New York must hear the voices and experiences of queer, trans, and gender nonconforming youth of color, who must be directly involved in a process to create a different system that no longer criminalizes them for surviving poverty and living in the truths of their identities and experiences.

Who: Speakers:

Lee Jimenez, FIERCE Policing Organizer

Brea Yearwood, FIERCE member

Mani Chrise, FIERCE member

Angela, Youth

Lillian Rivera, The Center for LGBTQ Youth Advocacy & Capacity Building Hetrick-Martin Institute,
Director of Advocacy & Capacity Building

Carl Charles, American Civil Liberties Union, Skadden Fellow and Staff Attorney, LGBT & AIDS Project