

PRESS RELEASE

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On Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> an incident of harassment of a transgender individual at the Utah Driver's License Fairpark location was brought to our attention. On Monday, March 28, 2011, Transgender Education Advocates (TEA) of Utah met with the Utah State Director over the Driver's License Division (DLD), Bureau Chiefs, Site Managers and other State officials. TEA of Utah was present for the initial investigation into this matter. The investigation is ongoing.

Executive and Assistant Executive Directors of TEA watched unedited color digital videotape evidence of the encounter captured from several different camera views and witnessed no clear evidence of discrimination nor actions which were against DLD policy. Today, the individual who was the recipient of alleged harassment has come forward, and TEA of Utah is working to contact this individual directly in an effort to better understand what took place on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>. It is TEA's intention to facilitate direct communication between the DLD and this individual.

TEA of Utah recognizes that this situation is sensitive, and that there are critical pieces of information missing from the public account of the incident. We understand that there are serious concerns held by community members about this incident, and the policy that may have allowed it. TEA of Utah will continue to work with the transgender community, the DMV and DLD to increase understanding and communication about how policy impacts transgender individuals. These agencies, and their employees are required to adhere to policy. TEA of Utah is committed to working with the DMV and the DLD to create and enforce policies that are not only sensible, but also provide equitable, respectful treatment of all individuals in our communities.

TEA of Utah and the State of Utah Driver's License Division have worked together for a number of years on public policy regarding how Utah citizens can change the gender marker on their official identification. We will continue to work with the Utah Driver's License Division and are providing training for Site Managers regarding Transgender issues in the spring of 2011.

If a Transgender individual is interested in learning more about how to officially change their gender marker in Utah, or how to receive an amended birth certificate or passport, please contact [info@teaofutah.org](mailto:info@teaofutah.org) for step by step information.

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