

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sonja Leftwich, Director/Secretary  
Cleveland Black Pride, Inc.  
P.O. Box 91786  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101  
Phone: 216.322.5131  
Websites: <http://www.bgpcleveland.com>  
<http://www.myspace.com/clevelandblackprideinc>  
Email: [info@bgpcleveland.com](mailto:info@bgpcleveland.com)

**Cleveland Black Pride, Inc. Hosts the 2009 Annual Symposium: The State of Black Gay America**

Cleveland, OH – February 7, 2009 –

Cleveland Black Pride, Inc., the newly restructured organization has taken an aggressive approach to supporting and providing the much needed educational services in the Black LGBT community. The 2009 Annual Symposium is offering the community the opportunity to learn and question experts relevant to some of the pertinent and pressing issues within the LGBT communities and specifically the LGBT community of color. The format of the event this year is comprised of various presentations, on Homophobia in the Black Church, HIV/AIDS/STDs, Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community, and Transgender Issues, followed by a panel discussion and anonymous question submission.

The speakers for this year's event are Rev. Hattie Alexander, New Birth Church of Detroit, MI, Rev. Dewery Edwards, Akron, Ohio, Vera Paul Jarrett, Director of the John T. Carey Center for Immunology, University Hospitals, Tamila Campbell, LPN, Caremark Medicare, Detective Deirdre Jones, Cleveland Police Department, Domestic Violence Unit, Cathy Alexander, former Director of the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Ever Bolden, Female to Male Transgender, and Dr. Cynthia Vrabel, Medical Dir. Mental Health Services.

This is the first year that the symposium has been separated from the Black Pride weekend, which is held the first weekend in August typically, in an effort to heighten awareness of the event. The event continues to be a free event provided as outreach to the LGBT community. The attendance is estimated at 50-100 attendees.

Due to the large response received from speakers, Cleveland Black Pride, Inc. plans to conduct smaller 'Coffee House' discussions on these and other important topics within the LGBT community throughout the following months.

For information contact: [www.bgpcleveland.com](http://www.bgpcleveland.com)  
[www.myspace.com/clevelandblackprideinc](http://www.myspace.com/clevelandblackprideinc)  
Email: [symposiuminfo@bgpcleveland.com](mailto:symposiuminfo@bgpcleveland.com)  
Phone: 216.322.5131

# 2009 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

## The State of Black Gay America

Join Us for an Informational Dialogue  
On the Issues Concerning Our Community

Saturday, February 7, 2009 12p-4p

### HIV/AIDS/STD's

Dr. Vera Paul-Jarrett, Dir.  
University Hospitals  
Tamila Campbell, LPN

### Homophobia in the Black Church

Rev. Hattie Alexander, New Birth  
Church, Detroit, MI  
Rev. Dewery Edwards, Akron, OH

### Domestic Violence

Det. Dierdre Jones, CPD, Domestic  
Violence Unit  
Cathy Alexander, Former Dir., Cntr. for  
the Prevention of Domestic  
Violence

### Transgender Issues

Ever Bolden  
FTM Transgender  
Dr. Cynthia Vrabel, Med. Dir., Mental  
Health Services

Panel Discussion

Anonymous Question Submission

Refreshments Provided



For Information Call:  
216.322.5131

Mather Mansion at Cleveland State University

3rd Floor

2121 Euclid Avenue  
(East of Main Campus)  
Cleveland, OH



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