

Council files committee gen. welfare  
Intro # 2  
1986



*Patrolmen's Benevolent Association*  
**NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

INTRO # 2

MARCH 11, 1986

DENNIS AHERN -2ND VICE PRESIDENT

NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT P.B.A.

Let me apologize for William McKechnie, President of the Transit Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, for not being able to be here in person. Pressing business causes him to be out of town and unavailable. I come before you not as Dennis Ahern the individual, but as 2nd Vice President and selected spokesperson of the over 3200 members of the New York City Transit Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

The question of gay rights and the passage of a so-called gay rights bill should not be confused with the question of civil rights because there is no intelligent comparison that can be drawn. The United States Supreme Court has determined who, and what, are the protected classes under our constitution, homosexuals and bisexuals are not listed.

This bill would, if passed, create a special protected class not throughout the United States or even the State of New York but just within New York City.

It would by its very nature, place restrictions on how the balance of society can react when it encounters behavior of which it disapproves, finds offensive, or which makes me uneasy.

The bill would treat homosexuality, bisexuality and heterosexuality as equals and states that it's not the function of a civil rights statute to promote "a particular group or community." This would be a radical departure from the traditional role of government which viewed itself as biased in favor of and highly supportive of the family as the basic structure of society.

Society has a right to exclude and reject certain types of flauntive behavior.

If this bill is passed a new protected class (homosexuals and bisexuals) will be created, who would eventually establish affirmative action programs, preferential status in hiring, protection against firing and other benefits under an expanded definition of rights not afforded to the rest of society or as stated protected by our constitution.

In order to increase the legal rights and privileges of the rest of the population which does not engage in homosexual or bisexual behavior, we urge you to reject this bill. It is a bad bill, unnecessary and bad for business in our City.