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**News From Around PA**

Mummers underwent **diversity training** this year that will continue in the future i.e. performers in the Comic Division were required to adhere to specific makeup instructions including not having more than 25 percent of black, brown or yellow makeup. Rue Landau, executive director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Rights said, "We need to get to a place where nobody marches down Broad Street offending anyone."

The Caucus of Working Educators in Philly is encouraging teachers to wear **Black Lives Matter** T-shirts and provide lessons on the movement every day the week of January 23rd.

State Rep David Zimmerman (R) is introducing legislation, called "**Blue Lives Matter**,"

that would expand PA's Ethnic Intimidation statute to include police, firefighters and emergency medical services providers.

A four year battle in **Shickshinny Borough in Luzerne County** has ended. A resident sued the borough claiming it violated the "constitutionally-mandated" separation of church and state by allowing the installation of a directional sign for a church in the right-of-way of the road near her home. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the sign was constitutional.

**News from National Scene**

Alabama's bathroom bill, called the **Alabama Privacy Act**, would put attendants in mixed gender public bathrooms to guard against potential "molestation, assault and battery."

**Backpage.com** closed down its adult classified ad section in the US the same day the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations released a joint staff report accusing the company of knowingly sanitizing online ads by

deleting code words such as 'innocent,' 'cheerleader,' and 'amber alert' to conceal child sex trafficking.

**California** has banned official travel to North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kansas because of their "anti-LGBT laws" i.e. laws that protect Christian business owners and counselors and restrict bathroom usage to the individual's biological sex.

The **U.S. Department of Justice** has asked a federal appeals court to overturn a judge's ruling that suspended enforcement of Obama's order allowing transgender students and workers to use the bathroom of their choice. We are a non-profit organization that is totally dependent upon financial gifts from our supporters. You can give online here <http://afaofpa.org/donate/>

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Publication of the AFA of PA,  
P.O. Box 1048, Franklin, PA  
16323

Phone: 814-271-9078

Fax: 814-437-5432

Website: <http://afaofpa.org>