

The Van Dyke Law Firm

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June 14, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The following constitutes the official statement of the Pacific Northwest Proud Boys concerning inaccurate reports with respect to their plans for gay pride celebrations in the Portland area this weekend:

"The Proud Boys is a multi-racial men's fraternity that welcomes both straight and gay men as brothers. The only criteria for membership in the fraternity is that a person (a) be biologically male; and (b) recognize that the West is the best. The "West" refers specifically to culture and is not intended to assert the supremacy of any one race over another. Notwithstanding these facts, the Proud Boys recently been subject to a number of false and defamatory attacks. These attacks have included libelous assertions by the Southern Poverty Law Center that the fraternity is a "hate group" and have escalated to actual threats in the Portland area by domestic terrorists known as Rose City Antifa.

The facts are simple: The Proud Boys is not now, nor has it ever been, an anti-gay organization. The Proud Boys have not planned, nor are they intending to plan, any sort of action against the GLBTQ+ community in the Portland area or anywhere else. Our fraternity strongly believes in the right of *all* Americans to defend themselves. We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the commission of violent acts against any person because of their race, gender, or sexual orientation. The only thing any person has to fear from the Proud Boys is the possibility that their presence may cause some establishments to run out of beer.

Very truly yours,



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