

# HAMPTON VA

## NEWS RELEASE

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Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191  
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

## Unity, police host conversation on ‘Understanding the Experiences of our LGBTQ Neighbors’

**June 6, 2017** - Hampton Roads Pride, the Citizens’ Unity Commission and the Hampton Police Division will host a special community conversation on Thursday, June 22, titled “Understanding the Experiences of our LGBTQ Neighbors.”

Synetheia Newby, director of the Unity Commission, said the need for the conversation grew out of a desire to inspire mutual respect between members and non-members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning community.

“Across our country, and even in our local communities, we read about the injustices and discrimination that members of the LGBTQ community experience, and how this leaves many feeling excluded and invisible,” Newby said. “This community conversation creates a starting point for increasing understanding and promoting inclusion here in Hampton.”

Newby said they want to create an informal atmosphere where members of the LGBTQ community can learn about available resources such as LGBTQ-friendly faith centers and family services, while other attendees can learn more about the LGBTQ community and explore how to support LGBTQ family members and friends.

Hampton Roads Pride President Michael Berlucchi said: “We are excited to partner with our friends at the Citizens’ Unity Commission and the Hampton Police Division to present a conversation that we hope will engage and enlighten the community around topics that relate to the rapidly changing social and political landscape for people who identify as members of the LGBTQ community. Everyone is welcome to attend this open dialogue!”

The community conversation will be held Thursday June 22, from 6-8 p.m. at the Hampton Performing and Creative Arts Center, 300 Butler Farm Road. It’s free, but [registration](#) is required. You can go online to learn more about Hampton Roads [Pride](#), the [Unity Commission](#) and [Hampton Police](#). For more information, contact Synetheia Newby at 757-728-3279.

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