



LATINA/O BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

ASOCIACIÓN DE ABOGADOS LATINOS DE WASHINGTON

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"Representing the Concerns and Goals of Latino Attorneys and the Latino Community"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LATINO LEGAL GROUP CONDEMNS KCPQ REFUSAL TO AIR APRIL 17TH VIDEO SHOWING RACIAL VIOLENCE BY POLICE

(Seattle, WA, May 10, 2010) The Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) issued a statement today condemning KCPQ Fox News for suppressing public access to a video showing police violence against a Latino man. The April 17th video taken by a KCPQ freelance photographer showed the beating of an innocent man by two Seattle police officers and a slur against Mexicans by one of the officers. The public did not see the video footage until nearly three weeks after the incident, on May 6th.

LBAW's President-Elect, Fe Lopez stated: "KCPQ's failure to disclose police brutality toward an innocent Latino man is a grave disservice to our community. The station should apologize."

Jud Morris, KCPQ's photographer, told a KIRO reporter that KCPQ management was initially excited about the video. But Morris stated that two days after he gave KCPQ the video, station management told him that KCPQ would not run the video because the officers didn't do "anything wrong."

LBAW's Fé Lopez responded: "KCPQ has failed to offer any justification for a news organization's refusal to air documented racial violence by Seattle police. We have to ask whether the station would have kept the video secret if the victim of the violence had not been described as 'Mexican.'"

LBAW also expressed its concern regarding racial profiling in light of Arizona's recent immigration law and about the media's role in fueling anti-immigrant sentiment around the country.

The Latina/o Bar Association of Washington is a group of over three hundred volunteer attorneys, judges, and law students whose purpose is to represent the concerns and goals of the Latino people of the State of Washington. LBAW is seeking a meeting with Mayor McGinn and Interim Police Chief John Diaz to discuss Seattle's response to the April 17th incident.