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Clergy rally for gay nups

Clergy who have performed same-sex weddings converged outside Police Headquarters yesterday to proclaim their support for legalizing gay marriage.

The religious leaders praised New Paltz Mayor Jason West, who was hit with 19 criminal counts for performing same-sex weddings in defiance of state law.

"This is bigotry. This is discrimination," said Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, who routinely marries gay couples despite their inability to get a license. "We say to the authorities of New York State, 'Arrest us.'"

Kleinbaum, of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in Chelsea, and about 20 other clergy called on Mayor Bloomberg to push state lawmakers to legalize gay marriage.

Greg Gittrich

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