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Broken Windows at Blue's: A Queer History of Gentrification and Quality of Life Policing

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On September 29th, 1982, over 30 New York City police officers raided Blue's, a bar in Manhattan's Times Square, and brutally attacked the black and Latino gay men and transgender women who made up the bar's main clientele. During that very same year, the theory of broken windows policing was introduced to the general public and concerns about gay participation in gentrification came to the fore of academic and activist debate. Using the raid of Blue's in Times Square in 1982 as a starting point, this talk considers the historical and contemporary dynamics between police practices, gentrification, and LGBT/queer activism in the U.S., and concludes with a discussion of activism for more just cities today.