

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

MEDIA ALERT

September 06, 2012

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NCAVP Update: August reports of violence affecting LGBTQH communities in the media in the United States

- **4 murders and 11 total incidents reported in August**

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) is concerned by reports of violence impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities across the United States that were reported during the month of August, 2012. This month, NCAVP is including incidents that occurred in July 2012 which were reported to NCAVP in August, 2012. **In total, 11 incidents were reported in the media in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Utah.** August contained continuing trends from the previous month of reports of intimate partner violence murder (1 report) and vandalism (3 reports). August also continued the [alarming national trend](#) of murders of transgender people of color (2 reports), which is 4 more reports of transgender or gender non-conforming people compared to August 2011. The week of August 12th contained the highest number of reports of LGBTQH violence in August, with five total reports.

Week of August 1, 2012:

An unnamed man was on his way to attend the Fire Party, an LGBTQH event, when he asked a man for directions in **Atlanta, Georgia**. The man responded by asking, "Are you a fag?" and the unnamed man replied, "yes, I suppose I am." The man he asked directions then [punched him in the face](#), knocking him to the ground. A friend of the survivor reported that a nearby security officer was reluctant to help and respond to this attack. The friend then accompanied the man to a nearby hospital where he received five stitches for a puncture wound under his right eye. According to the Atlanta Police Department, no arrests have been made in response to this incident.

Kenneth Creuzer, 48, walked into an unlocked motel room at the Parliament House gay resort Saturday and [raped](#) another man in **Orlando, Florida**. Creuzer told investigators the door to the man's room was open, and leaving a door ajar and blinds open is known as an invitation to

sex. The survivor began to punch Creuzer, causing him to run out of the room. Orange County Authorities arrested Creuzer and are charging him with burglary and sexual battery.

Week of August 5, 2012:

Anti-LGBTQH protesters outside the Gay Day event [threatened event attendees with death and sexual violence](#) in **Grand Rapids, Michigan**. The local organization Tolerance, Equality, and Awareness Movement ([TEAM](#)) responded with a statement saying, " (Hate speech that incites violence) infringes on the human rights of others and leaves a bad mark on the vitality and beauty of the diversity of our community." Event attendees called the Grand Rapids police, who arrived at the event but did not make any arrests. The Grand Rapids chapter of the National Organization for Women ([NOW](#)) [released a statement](#) condemning these threats and calling on city officials to appropriately respond to these threats of violence.

Week of August 12, 2012:

NCAVP learned of the murder of Waayne Wallace, 17, who identified as gay, last month in **Camden, New Jersey**. An unidentified person [fatally shot](#) Wallace before fleeing the scene. Camden police are investigating this incident as a homicide, but have not determined the motive of Wallace's killing. Wallace's friends and family created a neighborhood memorial in honor of Wallace at an abandoned house with teddy bears, cards, and a rainbow flag.

A congregant attended the August 12th church service of an openly gay pastor at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church and afterward discovered that someone had written an anti-gay slur and an obscene image on a golf ball and used it to [smash in the window](#) of his vehicle in **St. Paul, Minnesota**. Local law enforcement took a report and will investigate this incident.

NCAVP learned of the murder of Donta Tiffany Godden, a transgender woman in **Chicago, Illinois**. Ms. Godden's death is the second murder in Chicago of a transgender woman in four months. [Local news stations](#) reported that 19-year-old Godden was found dead on August 14th in an abandoned building in the South Austin neighborhood of Chicago. Gooden [reportedly](#) suffered several stabbing and incise wounds, which led officials to rule the death as a homicide. Gooden has been identified as a [sex worker](#) in many reports. NCAVP has been working with member organization Center on Halstead to determine whether an anti-LGBTQH and/or anti-sex work motive exists; however the motivation for the homicide has not yet been determined.

Camino Nicole Maxwell yelled, "I'm gonna kill you," and, "I'll make you straight," and [attacked Kayla Elliott, 29, with a knife](#) in **Midwest City, Oklahoma** on August 14th. Maxwell had reportedly been harassing Elliott, who identifies as a lesbian, with anti-gay slurs for months prior to this incident. Elliott sustained a head wound requiring 18 stitches as a result of this attack. Bystanders called local police who arrested Maxwell. OKC Pride set up is raising funds to support Elliott with her medical and legal expenses associated with this incident.

A group of 30 to 40 people were gathered on the patio at Club JAM, a gay club in **Salt Lake City, Utah**, when they were bombarded with [flaming projectiles](#) on August 16th. One of the club's patrons, Fernando Noriega, on of the club's patrons, and other patrons jumped over the fence to see who launched the projectiles, and the unidentified perpetrators then fled the scene. Salt Lake City police are searching for suspects who are white, in their late teens or early 20s

and with blond, shaggy hair, in relation to this incident. Club JAM will hold a [special event](#) on August 22nd celebrating the community's strength in response to this incident.

Week of August 19, 2012:

NCAVP learned of the [fatal shooting](#) of Kendall L. Hampton, 26, a gender non-conforming person in **Cincinnati, Ohio**. Cincinnati Police are investigating Hampton's death as a homicide, and have asked the public for assistance in their investigation. NCAVP member program, Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization ([BRAVO](#)), released a [statement](#) in response to this murder saying that they believe it was a hate crime and offering support to community members during this critical time.

Week of August 26, 2012:

NCAVP learned of the death of Jessie McCaskill and Dallas Augustine on Monday night, August 27, in an [apparent intimate partner violence murder-suicide](#) in **Phoenix, Arizona**. Police believe that Augustine, 32, killed her partner Jessie McCaskill, 50, before killing herself. In 2006, Dallas Augustine's mother, Kathy Augustine, a prominent Nevada lawmaker, was murdered by her husband, Chaz Higgs. Higgs was convicted of her murder in 2007. NCAVP released a [breaking news alert](#) alerting our communities to this violence in response to this incident.

An unknown person threw eggs at and [spray painted an anti-gay slur and the word "death"](#) on the garage door of Anthony Martinez and Andrei Belov's home in **Claremont, California** on August 27th or 28th. Belov also reported that an unknown person called their home from a blocked number 17 times over the course of two hours beginning at 3:40am, but that he couldn't make out what the person was saying. Claremont police are asking for the public's assistance in providing information for their investigation.

According to NCAVP's [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2011*, there were 30 anti-LGBTQH hate murders in 2011, the highest number of hate violence murders ever recorded by NCAVP, despite a 16% decrease in overall reports of hate violence. Additionally, NCAVP's 2010 [report](#) *Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Communities* documented 38.1% increase in reports of LGBTQH intimate partner violence between 2009 and 2010. NCAVP believes that together communities can prevent and end violence impacting LGBTQH people and calls on community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to join efforts to end violence within and against LGBTQH communities.

Contact Information for Organizations Responding to Incidents

Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)

1-866-86-BRAVO (1-866-862-7286)

www.bravo-ohio.org

National Organization for Women Greater Grand Rapids Chapter

www.nowgr.org

OKC Pride

405-466-LGBT (405-466-5428)

www.okcpride.org

Tolerance, Equality, and Awareness Movement

www.teamwmi.org

NCAVP is providing all information available regarding these reports and is not responsible for the complete accuracy of the specific details pertinent to allegations, police investigations, and criminal trials. Initial reports of these incidents come from media reports of LGBTQH violence and not direct service provision from NCAVP member programs. NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in these areas and is offering assistance to support their anti-violence efforts.

NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individuals who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).

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