

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

MEDIA ALERT

October 12, 2012

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

- **2 homicides and 19 total incidents reported in September**

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 September, 2012. **In total, 19 incidents were reported in the media in California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington DC.** September contained continuing trends from the previous month of reports of vandalism (5 reports), and the [alarming national trend](#) of homicides of transgender people of (1 report). September 2012 included two reports of sexual violence on college campuses, and violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people after sexual encounters (2 reports). The week of September 23rd contained the highest number of reports of LGBTQH violence in August, with six total reports.

Week of September 1, 2012:

Sacramento, California

Unknown people [painted swastikas and anti-gay messages](#) at Orchard Park on West River Drive on September 1st. The graffiti included swastikas, gang signs and anti-LGBTQH messages. Local police have reported that city crews erased the graffiti on Saturday. Sacramento police are asking for the public's assistance in tracking down any information related to this incident.

Long Beach, California

Four marines [beat a gay man unconscious](#) while calling him anti-LGBTQH slurs outside a bar on September 2nd. Charlie Harris, who was working at the bar, ran to help the survivor. As the survivor lay unconscious after the assault, Harris fought the men until police arrived. Local authorities arrived and arrested the four marines, who may face hate crime charges.

Hyattsville, Maryland

Christian Ariel Romero, 20, and an unnamed gender non-conforming person allegedly engaged in a sexual act together before Romero [stabbed the other person](#) after he discovered that they were gender non-conforming on September 2nd. Romero fled immediately after the attack. Local police responded to this incident and transported the survivor to a local hospital. Montgomery County has charged Romero with counts of attempted first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, first-degree and second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and theft.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia police are investigating the [death of gender non-conforming person](#) on September 3rd. The body was found fatally shot shortly after 5:00 a.m. in a wooded area in the 1100 block of Adams Avenue. Local authorities are still working to identify the victim.

Week of September 9, 2012:

Burnsville, Minnesota

Kayeden Robert Oliver, a transgender man, [assaulted and strangled](#) his girlfriend of 5 years on September 4th. Oliver's partner said that the argument with Oliver started after she asked him to bring the couple's dog in. Oliver admitted to police that he and the victim had a verbal argument, but denied that it had become physical. Oliver remains in the Dakota County Jail in Minnesota where he faces a charge of domestic assault by strangulation.

Omaha, Nebraska

Four men jumped a straight man and his brother outside McFly's bar on September 8th. The four men then [beat the man because they believed he was gay](#). The survivor suffered scrapes, cuts and a swollen lip. The survivor posted a YouTube video recount to document and speak out against this incident.

Gainesville, Florida

University of Florida police are investigating an incident of vandalism where a [anti-LGBTQH slur was etched](#) into the paint of a professor's car in a law school parking lot on September 10th. The incident is being investigated as a hate crime. University of Florida President Bernie Machen has responded that, "We will not tolerate this kind of behavior on our campus. Please join me in condemning this act," in response to this incident.

Washington, DC

Unknown people are [vandalizing and emptying the distribution boxes](#) of [Metro Weekly](#), a free weekly LGBTQH publication. These incidents are reported to be ongoing since February, with the latest reported incident occurring on September 13th. The people behind the vandalism have filled the boxes with garbage, old food, and fecal matter. David Uy, webmaster for *Metro Weekly's* online site has been attempting to identify the culprit, going as far as managing to capture video surveillance of a man disposing of large numbers of *Metro Weekly* issues.

Chicago, Illinois

Two unnamed men verbally assaulted two gay men in the Lincoln Park neighborhood on September 13th. An employee of the Cook County State's Attorney's office was walking nearby and yelled at the two men to stop harassing the two gay men. The two men then [physically attacked the man](#) for intervening, including stabbing him multiple times in his face, side, and arms. Local police took the man to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries. Area North detectives are currently investigating this incident.

Week of September 16, 2012:

Oak Lawn, Texas

An unnamed woman [stabbed her ex-girlfriend](#), Melissa Yung, 23, multiple times in the neck, chest, and abdomen at a gay club on September 17th. The woman fled in an unknown direction after the attack. A witness to the fight then accompanied Yung to a nearby hospital to treat her injuries.

Princeton, New Jersey

Richard Charles Tuckwell, a 20 year old student at Princeton University, is accused of using his cellphone camera to [take sexually explicit photos](#) of another student, a 19 year old man, without his consent while he was sleeping on September 21st. The two students met during Lawn Party weekend, two days of outdoor concerts, before they went to a dormitory where the younger student fell asleep. Local authorities have charged Tuckwell for invasion of privacy in response to this incident.

Austin, Texas

An unnamed man asked two gay men, "What are you looking at?" at a pizza restaurant on September 21st. One of the men replied, "I'm not looking at you," and then the unnamed man knocked into one of them and [punched the other man in the face](#), causing blood to spew out of his mouth. The survivor who was attacked required oral surgery due to a fractured jaw. The survivors of this incident feel that the man attacked them because they are gay. Austin police are currently searching for the perpetrator, who will be charged with aggravated assault if caught.

Week of September 23, 2012:

Washington, DC

An unnamed man [struck a transgender woman](#) while she was walking, sexually assaulted her, and stole her purse at gunpoint on September 23rd. The Metropolitan Police Department is currently searching for the perpetrator of this incident.

Detroit, Michigan

Following a car accident on September 23rd where the car of Courtney, 22, and Kenyetta, 20, was hit by an SUV, the passenger of the SUV and Kenyetta engaged in a verbal argument. The argument became physical, and Courtney intervened to break up the fight. The SUV driver said, "I can't believe this man just hit me," and called four friends who are men to the scene. The men [attacked Courtney and Kenyetta using anti-lesbian and anti-transgender slurs](#). NCAVP member, [Equality Michigan](#), released a statement saying that they are working with the Detroit Police and calling on the Michigan legislature to add gay and transgender people to the state's Ethnic Intimidation Act.

Dallas, Texas

John David Mahaffey, 19, a student at Southern Methodist University ([SMU](#)), forced an unnamed man, also a student at SMU, to [perform oral sex](#) on him at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house and then again in a parking garage on September 23rd. Mahaffey threatened the unnamed man that he "better not tell a soul." The man met with SMU police the next day and reported this assault. SMU police then recorded a discussion between Mahaffey and the man where Mahaffey admits he knew the encounter was nonconsensual, and again threatened the man that he must say it was consensual. Mahaffey was booked into Dallas County Jail on second-degree felony charges in response to this incident.

Midwood, Brooklyn

Local authorities found [homophobic and Anti-Semitic graffiti](#) written on a schoolyard wall at PS 238 on East 8th Street on Monday, September 24. According to the police, the graffiti was first photographed and then removed. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) released a [community](#) alert in response to this incident. The New York Police Department Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating this report.

New York City, New York

Keith Patron, 44, yelled anti-LGBTQH slurs at a transgender woman for trying to use the public restroom at a McDonald's on West 3rd Street in Manhattan's West Village neighborhood on September 10th. The woman's boyfriend defended her to the Patron, which resulted in a physical dispute where Patron [slashed](#) the woman's boyfriend on the elbow, face, back, and neck with a knife. The New York Police Department arrested Patron in response to this attack on September 24th. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) released a [community alert](#) in response to this incident.

San Luis Obispo, California

Unknown people have [vandalized the car and workplace](#) of Bailey Brown, an openly gay athletic director at the Mission Prep High School. The vandalism began in the spring, and was followed by an incident where anti-LGBTQH language was spray painted on Brown's car in front of her home, parts of her car were destroyed with an ice pick, and her tires were slashed. The most recent incident occurred at Mission Prep High School, where four areas of the high school were spray painted with anti-LGBTQH slurs. Local authorities have advised Brown to avoid her home to protect her safety. She is speaking out about these incidents to raise awareness and take a stand against hate violence.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Indianapolis firefighters responded to a house fire on September 30th, where they found Bryant Steele, 27, [dead inside his home](#). Local police are investigating this incident as a homicide, and Steele's family believe that Steele may have been targeted for violence because he is gay.

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 2011 [report](#) *Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Communities* documented 19 LGBTQH intimate partner violence homicides, three times the amount of intimate partner violence homicides in 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

Equality Michigan

313-537-7000

www.equalitymi.org

Equality Texas

512-474-5475

www.equalitytexas.org

New York City Anti-Violence Project

212-714-1184

www.avp.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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