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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Anti-Violence Project condemns brutal assault in New York's Greenwich Village**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 14, 2009**

New York – The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) has learned that the Hate Crime unit of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) is currently investigating a possible bias assault that occurred in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood at about 2 a.m. this morning. The victim, a 50-year old man from upstate New York, was discovered at the corner of Christopher Street and Seventh Avenue bleeding from his head and is currently in critical condition reportedly at St. Vincent's Hospital. Police report that the man got in an altercation with four people who assaulted him.

"Any violent assault of this kind is a terrible tragedy. We would like to express our concern for the victim and for family and friends affected by this assault," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project, "AVP is in contact with the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force as they investigate this crime and with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn's office and we will continue to monitor this situation. We encourage anyone affected by hate violence to call our free and confidential 24-hour hotline at 212.714.1141."

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*The New York City Anti-Violence Project is dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities through counseling, advocacy, organizing and public education. AVP is a member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP).*

*In 2008, the Anti-Violence Project served over 2,000 victims of violence. The Anti-Violence Project's Safe Dating and Internet Safe Dating Tips, as well as NCAVP's annual reports on hate violence and domestic violence, can be accessed online at [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org) or by calling 212-714-1184.*

*The Anti-Violence Project provides free and confidential assistance to LGBTQH victims and survivors of violence through its 24-hour bilingual hotline: 212-714-1141.*