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**Metro Human Relations Commission  
A Community Education Forum on Hate Crime Prevention  
January 26, 2012  
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Tennessee State University**

**ROUGH DRAFT**

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**ROUGH DRAFT**

**A COMMUNITY EDUCATION FORUM ON HATE CRIME PREVENTION**  
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>> GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> THE HEADLINE READ, "TWO MEN CHARGED WITH BRANDISHES A SWASTIKA ON THE ARM OF A NATIVE AMERICAN MAN."

AND JUST YESTERDAY, THE HEADLINE READ, "TWO MEN SENTENCED FOR RACIALLY MOTIVATED ASSAULT IN NEW MEXICO."

FIRST DEFENDANTS CHARGED UNDER THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT.

MAYOR DEAN, MEMBERS OF THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, MR. JERRY MARTIN, OTHER DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES, GUESTS, AND THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY FAMILY, WELCOME.

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT SHIELDS AND AS YOU CAN SEE I'M NOT PRESIDENT SHIELDS, I WELCOME YOU TO TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, THE LAND OF GOLDEN SUNSHINE.

IT IS QUITE APPROPRIATE THAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY AT THE AVON WILLIAMS CAMPUS TO DISCUSS THE EXPANSION OF THE FEDERAL LAW THAT WAS ORIGINALLY PASSED IN 1969.

BECAUSE AVON WILLIAMS WAS DEVOTED HIS CAREER AS AN ATTORNEY AND A LEGISLATOR TO PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS AND ELIMINATING INJUSTICES.

TODAY, WITH OVER REPORTED 1,000 HATE CRIME GROUPS, THAT IS 1,000 IDENTIFIABLE GROUPS GALVANIZED OVER A COMMON PURPOSE OF PROMOTING HATRED TOWARD A GROUP OF PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SKIN COLOR, SEXUAL IDENTITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS THERE IS SADLY A NEED MORE THAN EVER THAN IN 1969 FOR PROTECTION AGAINST HATRED.

CAMPUSES LIKE OURS ARE NOT IMMUNE TO HATE CRIMES.

IN FACT, 12% OF HATE CRIMES OCCUR ON COLLEGE AND SCHOOL GROUNDS.

SO THANK YOU, CAROLINE BLACKWELL, THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF FOR ORGANIZING THIS TIMELY EVENT.

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LET US LEAVE HERE TODAY WITH THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMBAT HATRED AND COMMITTED TO WORK STEADFAST AGAINST IT, REMEMBERING THE OLD ADAGE, DO NOT OVERCOME BY EVIL BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.

THANK YOU, AND BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FORUM.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> GOOD MORNING, CAN EVERYONE HEAR ME?

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK T.S.U., THE FAMILY HERE AT T.S.U. FOR THEIR PARTNERSHIP TO HAVE US HERE AND THE COMMISSION LOOKS FORWARD TO HOPEFULLY CONTINUING DIFFERENT QUARTERLY FORUMS THAT LEAD THE WAY FOR DIFFERENT ISSUES.

AND WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE TODAY.

GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS SCOTT RIDGWAY AND I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING AS THE CHAIR OF THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, AN AGENCY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY.

OUR COMMISSION IS CHARGED WITH PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE THROUGH A VARIETY OF SERVICES THAT HELP TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, THE HEALTH, SECURITY, PEACE, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF ALL PEOPLE IN DAVIDSON COUNTY.

WE WORK TO HELP PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERSTAND AND DEFEND THEIR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

WE ALSO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY REGARDING DIVERSITY, CULTURAL AWARENESS, INCLUSIVITY WITHIN NASHVILLE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT TODAY'S EVENT AND ITS FEATURED SEGMENT WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND, INVESTIGATE, RESPOND TO, AND ULTIMATELY PREVENT HATE CRIMES IN NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST MAYORS IN TENNESSEE, A STRONG SUPPORTER OF OUR MISSION, AN ADVOCATE FOR HATE CRIMES FOR MANY YEARS, OUR OWN HONORABLE KARL DEAN, MAYOR TO HAVE CITY.

ONE OF OUR GUEST SPEAKERS TODAY AT THIS EVENT.

AS WELL AS OTHER SPEAKERS FROM SEVERAL LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.

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OUR -- THEIR PRESENCE HERE MAKES A POWERFUL STATEMENT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HATE CRIME PREVENTION.

I BELIEVE IT IS A TIMELY -- IT IS TIMELY OF TODAY'S FORUM COULD NOT BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

IN MY PROFESSIONAL JOB AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TENNESSEE SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK I HAVE BEEN IN SMITH COUNTY LEADING THE TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS AFTER THE DEATH OF ANOTHER STUDENT THAT HAS DIED BY SUICIDE.

SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH OF YOUTH SUICIDE IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THAT THE ROLE THAT BULLYING AND OTHER STRESSOR THAT IS PLAY A ROLE DUE TO HIS SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF THESE TWO INSTANCES.

THESE TRAGEDIES SHOULD REMIND US HOW ATTITUDES LEAD TO ACTION, FOR GOOD OF ALL -- FOR GOOD OR FOR ILL AND HOW VIOLENCE AND HATEFUL ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE OFTEN LEAD TO VIOLENCE AND HATEFUL ACTIONS AGAINST PEOPLE.

TEACHING PEOPLE ABOUT THE VALUES OF UNDERSTANDING, COMPASSIONATE AND ACCEPTANCE CONTRIBUTES TO POSITIVE ACTIONS THAT IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE.

NOT JUST PEOPLE OF CERTAIN RACE, RELIGION, ORIENTATION AND BACKGROUND.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THIS FORUM TODAY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR SPONSORS AND YOUR SPONSORS ARE LISTED IN THE PACKET.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE SOMEONE WHO IS WORKING EVERY DAY TO MAKE SURE THE REALITY OF PEOPLE OF NASHVILLE, HER LEADERSHIP, HER VISION AND WHAT NASHVILLE CAN BE WITH HELPING MAKE THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION A VITAL FORCE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

SHE AND HER STAFF HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO LAY OUT THE GROUNDWORK OF TODAY'S EVENTS.

I THANK THEM FOR THAT.

AND THEY HAVE DONE AS OUR COMMISSION MOVES FORWARD.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, CAROLINE BLACKWELL.

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[ APPLAUSE ]

>> GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND I THANK ALL OF YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

I WANT TO JUST TAKE A FEW MOMENTS, NOT TO CALL ATTENTION TO HATE TODAY BUT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS FORUM WAS ORGANIZED TO IN FACT HELP US FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN DO TO PREVENT THESE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IF YOU CAME TODAY THINKING THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A TIME WHERE THE FOCUS WAS GOING TO BE SOLELY ON THE NEGATIVE, THEN I HOPE THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU DON'T FEEL THAT WAY.

BUT THAT IN POINT OF FACT WHAT YOU HEAR TODAY ARE STORIES, IS INFORMATION, IS VITAL STATISTICS, EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED TO EMPOWER OURSELVES AND TO EQUIP OURSELVES TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF ONE ANOTHER, THOSE PEOPLE THAT WE LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING TODAY.

AND I HAVE THE PLEASURE AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE TO MOVE THE PROGRAM ALONG A LITTLE BIT.

WE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF A LATE START.

SO I'M GOING TO SHORTEN MY REMARKS AND INTRODUCE TO YOU SOMEONE WHO WE ALL, MAYOR KARL DEAN.

HE HAS COME TODAY TO OPEN THIS FORUM AND WE COULDN'T BE MORE PLEASED FOR THAT.

MAYOR DEAN IS THE SIXTH MAYOR OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, WAS FIRST SELECTED IN 2007 AND FORTUNATELY REELECTED LAST AUGUST.

MAYOR DEAN HAS LED NASHVILLE THROUGH TWO REALLY BIG CHALLENGES, ONE A DEEP NATIONAL RECESSION WHICH WE'RE STILL RECOVERING FROM AND A 500 YEAR FLOOD THAT WE KNOW AFFECTED AND CONTINUES TO AFFECT MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

MAYOR DEAN WORKS DILIGENTLY TO SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE NASHVILLE'S HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE.

HE WAS FIRST SELECTED TO THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE IN 1990, WAS REELECTED IN 1994 AND 1998.

MAYOR DEAN SERVED AS THE METRO LAW DIRECTOR FROM 1999 UNTIL 2007 WHEN HE RESIGNED TO RUN FOR MAYOR.

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MAYOR DEAN, WE COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY, AND THANK YOU FOR OPENING THE FORUM.

MAYOR DEAN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> I DON'T WANT TO HIDE BEHIND THAT BIG ONE THERE.

GET THIS.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR HAVING ME HERE.

IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE AND I AM VERY PLEASED THAT CAROLINE AND THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION HAS PUT THIS EVENT TOGETHER.

I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR CITY AND IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR US ALL TO DISCUSS AND TO THINK ABOUT.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO WELCOME DENNIS SHEPARD TO NASHVILLE.

WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE YOU HERE.

AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO INTRODUCING YOU AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR REMARKS.

AND LET ME SAY A WORD ALSO OF RECOGNITION AND THANKS TO JERRY MARTIN, OUR EXCELLENT U.S. ATTORNEY FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT.

WE HAVE MANY LOCAL AND STATEWIDE AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE HERE WITH US TODAY, BUT I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE CHIEF ANDERSON.

CHIEF, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

AS A FORMER PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR NASHVILLE, I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF DIFFERENT CRIMES AND A LOT OF DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS FOR CRIMES.

THERE ARE CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY, WHEN SOMEONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF ANOTHER PERSON FOR THEIR BELONGINGS.

IT'S EASY TO COMMIT THE CRIME SO SOMEONE COMMITS THE CRIME.

THERE ARE CRIMES OF PASSION WHERE CRIMES OCCUR IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT AND ESCALATE FAR BEYOND THEIR ORIGINAL INTENT.

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THERE ARE CRIMES THAT OCCUR BECAUSE OF A CYCLE OF LEARNED VIOLENCE WHICH WE SEE MOST FREQUENTLY IN THE AREA OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR PERHAPS CHILD ABUSE.

THERE ARE CRIMES, MANY, MANY CRIMES THAT OCCUR OUT OF ADDICTION, WHERE SOMEONE IS SUPPORTING A DRUG HABIT OR IS AN ALCOHOLIC AND FOR WHATEVER REASON COMMITS A CRIME WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OR WHILE THEY NEED TO RAISE MONEY TO KEEP THEIR -- KEEP THEIR ADDICTION GOING.

OF COURSE THERE ARE OTHER CRIMES THAT HAPPEN OUT OF JUST PLAIN MEANNESS, OUT OF IGNORANCE, OR EVEN OUT OF THE EVIL.

BUT WHILE THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THESE TYPES OF CRIMES ARE DIFFERENT, THEY CAN ALL LEAD TO INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL FATAL CONSEQUENCES AND THEY CAN ALL QUICKLY BECOME A FOUNDATION FOR A HATE CRIME.

AND THIS CAN HAPPEN BECAUSE HATE CRIMES CAN SPRING OUT OF OPPORTUNITY, OUT OF PASSION, OUT OF LEARNED VIOLENCE, OUT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE, AND OF COURSE JUST PLAIN MEANNESS OR EVIL.

BUT ALSO OUT OF IGNORANCE.

A SERIAL RAPIST OR A SERIAL MURDERER THAT IS AT LARGE, JUST LIKE THAT HATE CRIME CAN CAUSE A RIPPLE THROUGH A COMMUNITY.

WHEN A SERIAL RAPIST OR A MURDERER IS ON THE LOOSE IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE IS AN ALARM THAT GOES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE POPULATION.

WHEN THE PERPETRATOR IS CAUGHT, THERE IS REALLY ALMOST AN AUDIBLE SIGH OF RELIEF AND PEOPLE CALM DOWN AND THINK THAT CRISIS IS OVER.

THAT IS NOT THE CASE IN HATE CRIMES.

WHETHER SOMEONE COMMITS A VIOLENT HATE CRIME, ITS OCCURRENCE, LOOKING AT IT FROM THE OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNITY, BECOMES ALMOST A SYMBOL OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THAT CRIME OCCURS.

IT'S AS IF THE TOWN OR THE CITY WHERE THE HATE CRIME OCCURS BECOMES THE PERPETRATOR AND THE VICTIM AT THE SAME TIME.

PEOPLE SAY THE HATE CRIME OCCURRED THERE SO SOMETHING HAS TO BE WRONG THERE.

PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE CAN BE QUICK TO ASSUME FALSELY THAT A COMMUNITY HAS TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THIS SORT OF ATTITUDE.

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THIS TYPE OF GUILT BY ASSOCIATION ALSO HAPPENS IN OTHER AREAS, NOT JUST HATE CRIMES.

IF YOUR CITY HAS A HIGH CRIME RATE, THAT IMAGE OF YOUR CITY BECOMES A PROBLEM FOR YOU IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ISSUES.

AS MAYOR, THAT'S WHY I HAVE ALWAYS KEPT PUBLIC SAFETY AS A VERY, VERY HIGH PRIORITY, BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY, EDUCATION, IF YOU HAVE A SAFE CITY, KIDS ARE GOING TO GO TO SCHOOL, THEY'RE GOING TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN SCHOOL AND THEY'RE GOING TO LEARN IN SCHOOL.

IF YOU HAVE A SAFE CITY, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO WANT TO LIVE IN YOUR CITY, THEY'RE GOING TO WANT TO INVEST IN YOUR CITY, AND THEY'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE YOUR CITY GROW AND PROSPER.

SO IT'S IMPORTANT ALWAYS TO FOCUS ON PUBLIC SAFETY.

HERE IN NASHVILLE WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO SEE CRIME GO DOWN REALLY OVER MOST OF THE LAST TEN YEARS.

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE ON JANUARY 1st THAT NASHVILLE AS A CITY, IN TERMS OF THE HOMICIDE RATE FOR LAST YEAR, WE HIT THE LOWEST HOMICIDE RATE WE'VE HAD IN 45 YEARS.

51 NASHVILLIANS, 51 DIED BY HOMICIDE IN 2011.

THAT AN OBSCENE NUMBER.

NO ONE SHOULD TAKE COMFORT FROM THE FACT THAT WE HIT A 45-YEAR LOW.

THERE ARE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT HAVE LOWER HOMICIDE RATES THAN THAT.

BUT THE FACTS ARE FACTS.

THE LAST TIME WE HIT THAT NUMBER WAS 1966.

SO I THINK THAT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A HARD-WORKING POLICE DEPARTMENT AND A WELL-STAFFED POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS HELPED US REDUCE CRIME.

WE'RE ALSO FORTUNATE TO HAVE A LOW HATE CRIME RATE.

OF THE 6,624 HATE CRIME INCIDENTS REPORTED NATIONALLY IN 2010, ONLY 11 OCCURRED IN NASHVILLE.

AND WHILE AGAIN 11 INCIDENTS IS STILL TOO MANY, MANY OF THESE WERE PROPERTY OFFENSES.

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AN EXAMPLE OF THE HATE CRIME THAT OCCURRED IN NASHVILLE THAT I'M PERSONALLY AWARE OF WAS THE HATE MOTIVATED VANDALISM OF A MOSQUE ON 4th AVENUE THAT OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY OF 2010.

THIS MOSQUE WAS VANDALIZED WITH RELIGIOUS MOTIVATED HATE MESSAGES, HATE MESSAGES WERE SPRAY PAINTED ON THE MOSQUE'S EXTERIOR IN A DISPARAGING NOTE WAS LEFT ON THE YOUTH CENTER DOOR.

TENNESSEE -- THE TENNESSEE LAW, THE TENNESSEE CODE CRIMINALIZES THE ACT OF DAMAGING REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OF OTHERS WITH THE INTENT TO INTIMIDATE THEM FROM EXERCISING THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

ONE OF YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF COURSE WOULD BE THE FREEDOM TO PRACTICE RELIGION.

NATURALLY MOSQUE MEMBERS, THEIR NEIGHBORS, AND ALL OF NASHVILLE WERE DISTRESSED AND HEART BROKEN TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN TO A PLACE OF WORSHIP.

I WENT TO THE MOSQUE WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE, MET WITH ITS LEADERS, AND I CAN TELL YOU THEIR REACTION WAS, THEY WERE HAPPY TO SEE US AND GLAD WE WERE THERE, BUT THEY SAID MAYOR, WE GET IT.

THIS IS NOT NASHVILLE.

THIS IS NOT WHAT THIS CITY IS ABOUT.

WE KNOW THAT THIS CITY'S A GOOD FRIENDLY CITY.

BUT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WE TOOK SERIOUSLY AND WE NEED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY.

IN TENNESSEE MORE VIOLENT HATE CRIMES THAT OCCUR IN TENNESSEE, THE TENNESSEE COURTS ARE ALLOWED TO LOOK AT THE MOTIVATION BEHIND A CRIME IN DETERMINING THE SENTENCE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL GETS.

WHEN A JUDGE DOES SENTENCING THEY GET TO LOOK AT CERTAIN ENHANCEMENT FACTORS WHICH MEANS YOU GET A HIGHER SENTENCE THAN THE MEDIUM OR THE LOWER PART OF THE RANGE OF THE SENTENCE.

AND YOU ALSO CAN LOOK AT MITIGATION FACTORS.

ONE OF THE ENHANCEMENT FACTORS IN TENNESSEE IS THAT IF A CRIME WAS COMMITTED OUT OF A DEFENDANT'S BELIEF OR PERCEPTION REGARDING THE RACE, RELIGION, COLOR, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY,

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OR GENDER OF THAT PERSON, THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED BY THE JUDGE WHEN IMPOSING SENTENCE.

THAT'S WHERE WE STAND WITH HATE CRIME, WHERE WE STAND WITH CRIME IN NASHVILLE RIGHT NOW.

BUT WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS REALLY WHAT I THINK THIS CITY HAS BEEN DOING AND WHAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO DO.

ONE TO HAVE THINGS THAT GIVES ME THE MOST PRIDE AS MAYOR, MAYORS GET HUNG UP ON RANKINGS.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT RANKINGS FOR BEING THE BEST VALUE CITY, BEING THE BOOM TOWN, I'M PRETTY PROUD OF THE ONE THAT "ROLLING STONE" SAYS WE'RE THE BEST MUSIC SCENE IN THE UNITED STATES.

BUT THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF RANKINGS.

THERE ARE RANKINGS THAT I DON'T LIKE THAT WE RANK AS A STATE AT THE VERY BOTTOM WHEN IT COMES TO OBESITY AND HEALTH AND THAT REGARDS.

BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK IS TRUE ABOUT NASHVILLE, AND YOU ALWAYS SEE THIS FROM "TRAVEL AND LEISURE" MAGAZINE, WE'RE ALWAYS RANKED IN THE TOP THREE CITIES, GENERALLY NUMBER ONE, NOT I'M COMPETITIVE ABOUT THIS, WE'RE GENERALLY RANKED AS THE FRIENDLIEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

AS MANY OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, I AM NOT A NASHVILLE NATIVE.

I CAME HERE ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO AND PEOPLE CAN START CALLING ME A NATIVE IN ANOTHER FIVE YEARS, I GUESS.

BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT STRIKES ANYBODY THAT COMES TO THE CITY IS HOW FRIENDLY THIS PLACE IS.

AND I THINK IT COMES FROM A LOT OF DIFFERENT REASONS.

PART OF IT IS IT'S THE SOUTHERN CULTURE.

PART OF IT IS THE FACT THAT WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THIS A LOT BUT I THINK NASHVILLE IS A COMMUNITY WITH A LOT OF FAITH.

THERE ARE SYNAGOGUES AND MOSQUES AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF ALL DIFFERENT TYPES AND RELIGION PLAYS PROBABLY A GREATER ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THIS COMMUNITY THAN MOST CITIES.

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AND I THINK, YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHURCH OR YOU'RE GOING TO THE MOSQUE OR GOING TO THE SYNAGOGUE, IF YOU'RE PRACTICING WHAT YOU'RE BEING TOLD, YOU'RE GENERALLY GOING TO BE A LITTLE MORE FRIENDLY.

I THINK THAT'S PART OF IT.

AND PART OF IT IS WE JUST VALUE THIS, THAT WE'VE COME TO ACCEPT THAT BEING FRIENDLY IS PART OF BEING A NASHVILLIAN AND WE WORK TO MAINTAIN THAT.

AND I -- THERE HAVE BEEN MANY MOMENTS THAT I HAVE BEEN PROUD OF THE CITY SINCE I'VE BEEN MAYOR.

AND THE TWO MOMENTS THAT STAND OUT THE MOST, THIS WHOLE IDEA OF BEING A FRIENDLY, WELCOMING CITY THAT EMBRACES DIVERSITY.

THE FIRST ONE THAT I WOULD MENTION IS THE FLOOD THAT OCCURRED HERE IN THE SPRING OF 2010.

I'M NOT GOING TO GO OVER THE HISTORY OF THE FLOOD, BUT AS YOU RECALL, BETWEEN -- ON MAY 1st AND MAY 2nd IN BASICALLY A 40-HOUR TIME PERIOD WE GOT ABOUT 15 INCHES OF RAIN.

MORE RAIN FELL ON NASHVILLE IN THOSE TWO DAYS THAN IN THE HISTORY OF RECORD KEEPING FOR RAIN IN NASHVILLE.

AND WE HAD A THOUSAND YEAR FLOOD.

WE HAD 11 CITIZENS DIE.

WE HAD \$2 BILLION DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY.

BUT WHAT WE ALL REMEMBER ABOUT THE FLOOD IS NOT THE PAIN OF THE LOSSES WE SUFFERED.

WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

BUT WHAT WE REMEMBER ABOUT THE FLOOD IS THAT WE SAW ALL THROUGHOUT THE CITY NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS, NEIGHBORS HELPING COMPLETE STRANGERS, CHURCHES HELPING THEIR PARISHIONERS, CHURCHES HELPING PEOPLE WHO NEVER SET FOOT HAD THEIR CHURCH BEFORE.

BUSINESS HELPING THEIR EMPLOYEES.

BUSINESS HELPING PEOPLE THEY HAD NO AFFILIATION WITH.

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AND HANDS ON NASHVILLE, WITHIN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, GETTING 20,000 VOLUNTEERS OUT IN THE STREETS OF NASHVILLE.

AND THE FLOOD WAS NONDISCRIMINATORY.

IT HIT IN WEST, EAST, SOUTH, NORTH NASHVILLE.

ALL DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS GROUP, RACIAL GROUPS, EVERYBODY WAS AFFECTED BY IT.

AND THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE FLOOD WAS TO WORK TOGETHER TO VOLUNTEER AND TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

THAT'S THE MESSAGE NASHVILLE NEEDS TO SEND.

THE OTHER MOMENT THAT STICKS IN MY MIND AND I WILL NEVER FORGET AND I'M SO PROUD OF THIS CITY WAS THE DEFEAT OF ENGLISH ONLY.

NOW, THIS ISSUE, THIS DEBATE AROUND THE AREA OF IMMIGRATION HAS BEEN GOING ON IN THIS COUNTRY FOR A LONG TIME.

AND REALLY INTENSIFIED REALLY IN THE LAST SIX OR SEVEN YEARS.

AND THERE HAVE BEEN EFFORTS TO SORT OF SEND AN ANTI-IMMIGRANT MESSAGE.

AND THOSE EFFORTS REALLY CAME TO FRUITION IN NASHVILLE WHEN IT WAS -- WHEN A REFERENDUM WAS CREATED, BASICALLY BY GETTING ENOUGH SIX TO PUT ON THE BALLOT A PROPOSITION SAYING THAT THE CITY OF NASHVILLE COULD ONLY DO BUSINESS IN ENGLISH, THAT WE CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE OF ANY OTHER LANGUAGE.

NOW, MOST OF US SAW THAT MESSAGE AND WE WERE HORRIFIED.

NUMBER ONE, JUST AS HUMAN BEINGS, THE NOT A VERY FRIENDLY THING TO DO.

NUMBER TWO, IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IF WE ARE, YOU KNOW, A HOSPITALITY CITY, WE'RE THE SECOND LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYER IS THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY AND WE'RE TELLING PEOPLE DON'T COME THE OUR CITY BECAUSE WE WON'T SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE.

WE'RE NOT OPEN.

IT'S A TERRIBLE MESSAGE.

BUT WHAT WAS SO REASSURING, AND I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT IT.

WHEN IT FIRST GOT ON THE BALLOT, THE PASSIONS AROUND THIS ISSUE WERE ABOUT AT THEIR PEAK THEN.

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BUT THIS COULD PASS AND THAT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE THING.

BUT COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM ALL OVER NASHVILLE CAME TOGETHER AND SAID THIS IS NOT US.

THIS IS NOT WHAT THIS CITY IS ABOUT.

WE ARE A CITY ABOUT BEING OPEN.

WE ARE A CITY ABOUT BEING DIVERSE.

AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP GOING IN THAT DIRECTION.

AND SO YOU HAD CHURCH LEADERS, YOU HAD THE.

>> ACLU, YOU HAD LABOR UNIONS, BUSINESS INTERESTS, YOU HAD THIS RUN OF THE MILL FOLKS WHO WEREN'T IN ANY ORGANIZATION OR ANY SET OF POLITICAL AGENDA ALL COME TOGETHER TO WORK TO DEFEAT THAT REFERENDUM AND WE DEFEATED IT.

AND FITTINGLY ENOUGH, THE ORGANIZATION THAT RAN THAT CAMPAIGN WAS CALLED NASHVILLE FOR ALL OF US.

NASHVILLE FOR ALL OF US.

AND THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD BE ABOUT.

THIS CITY IS FOR ALL OF US.

ANOTHER AREA WHERE I THINK WE CAN LOOK AT POSITIVE TRENDS IN NASHVILLE IS IN THE AREA OF NON DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL PREFERENCE.

I JUST TALKED ABOUT THE EFFORTS THAT I WAS PROUD OF OF MANY OF OUR CIVIC LEADERS AND ADULTS IN TERMS OF LEADING THAT CAMPAIGN AGAINST ENGLISH ONLY.

BUT ANOTHER THING TO BE PROUD OF IS THE METRO SCHOOL BOARD VOTED BACK I BELIEVE IN 2008 TO APPROVE CHANGES IN ITS CODE, STUDENT CONDUCT AND ITS EMPLOYEE NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY TO SAY THAT STUDENTS AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WERE PROTECTED FROM GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION.

AND MY UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THAT WORKED ITS WAY UP IS IT STARTED WITH THE STUDENTS WHO WENT TO THE BOARD AND THE BOARD APPROVED IT, WITH VERY LITTLE CONTROVERSY AND NASHVILLE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CITIES IN THE SOUTHEAST TO MAKE THAT STATEMENT.

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THE METRO COUNCIL THEN, WITH MY SUPPORT, FILED AN ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD SAY THAT METRO EMPLOYEES WOULD -- COULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN TERMS OF SEXUAL IDENTITY.

IT PASSED THE METRO COUNCIL, ACTUALLY A VERY COMFORTABLE MARGIN OF VICTORY.

I PROUDLY SIGNED IT INTO LAW AND THAT BECAME THE LAW FOR OUR CITY.

THIS PAST YEAR IN 2011 THE METRO COUNCIL PASSED AN NON DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE THAT STATED THAT A -- ANY CONTRACTOR DOING BUSINESS WITH THE CITY WOULD PLEDGE NOT TO DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.

WE ALREADY REQUIRE PEOPLE WHO CONTRACT WITH US NOT TO DISCRIMINATE ON A VARIETY OF OTHER -- AGAINST A VARIETY OF OTHER GROUPS.

THAT PASSED THE COUNCIL.

AGAIN, I PROUDLY SIGNED IT INTO LAW.

AND THEN THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE PASSED A BILL THAT BASICALLY SAID THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NO LONGER HAD THE RIGHT TO PASS SUCH LEGISLATION.

I WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE STATE ACTION.

BUT I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE PROUD OF WHAT THE COUNCIL HAD DONE AND WHAT THE CITY HAD DONE.

I THINK THE STATE SHOULD LET CITIES RUN THEMSELVES AND IF THIS CITY, WHICH THIS CITY DOES, WANT TO MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT THAT WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO DISCRIMINATE, AND WE WANT TO BE INCLUSIVE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT STATEMENT.

ONE OF THE OTHER AREAS I WANTED TO JUST MENTION ABOUT FOR THE FUTURE WHERE NASHVILLE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A VERY POSITIVE STATEMENT IS IN THE AREA OF SCHOOL BULLYING.

ONE OF THE CONCERNS THAT WAS -- HAS BEEN CITED IN THE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE -- BASICALLY AGAINST THE STATE LAW THAT DIDN'T ALLOW US TO PASS OUR OWN ORDINANCE IS THAT THAT NEW ORDINANCE MAY AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO HAVE CERTAIN BULLYING PROTECTIONS IN OUR SCHOOLS.

I THINK WE ALL CAN AGREE THAT OUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION.

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ONE OF THE THINGS -- AND I SAY GRACIE PORTER IS HERE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD -- ONE OF THE THINGS WE'VE WORKED THE HARDEST ON IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND PUT A LOT OF MONEY INTO IT TOO HAS BEEN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I DID IN TERMS OF EDUCATION WAS TO WORK ON CREATING A SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER IN EAST NASHVILLE.

WE TOOK THE OLD EAST PRECINCT AND MADE IT AN ATTENDANCE CENTER.

IT'S WHERE KIDS ARE PICKED UP FOR LOITERING OR TRUANCY ARE BROUGHT INSTEAD OF GOING DOWN TO JUVENILE COURT.

AND THE SCHOOLS PICKED UP THE BANNER AND HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB OF INCREASING THE ATTENTION THAT'S BEEN FOCUSED, THEY'RE GIVING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN TERMS OF TAKING ATTENDANCE EVERY PERIOD.

AND SO WE HAVE LITERALLY SEEN OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS ABOUT A 40% REDUCTION IN TRUANCY.

WHICH IS A GOOD THING.

SO THE LAST THING I WANT TO SEE, THE LAST THING -- THE LAST MESSAGE WE NEED TO BE SENDING IS THAT SCHOOL IS ANYWHERE OTHER THAN A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL KIDS TO BE.

THAT IT -- THE SCHOOLS NEED TO BE A PLACE WHERE KIDS WHO ARE CONFRONTED AND ADOLESCENTS WITH ALL SORTS OF ISSUES, THAT THEY NEED TO HAVE A PLACE WHERE THEY'RE SAFE, WHERE THEY'RE SECURE, AND PEOPLE LISTEN TO THEM.

GAIL KERR WROTE A -- I THINK, SHE HASN'T ASKED MY OPINION BUT I THINK, SHE WROTE A GREAT COLUMN YESTERDAY.

IT'S ON THE LOCAL BUSINESS SECTION, IT SAYS "DON'T SAY GAY BILL WOULD PRODUCE HOSTILITY IN SCHOOLS."

THERE'S A BILL THAT BASICALLY NOW IN FRONT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT SAYS TEACHERS CAN'T USE THE WORD "GAY" OR TALK ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

HERE'S WHAT GAIL SAYS, TWO MIDDLE TENNESSEE TEENS HAVE KILLED THEMSELVES IN RECENT WEEKS AND FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS SAY BOTH WERE THE OBJECTS OF PERSISTENT BULLYING IN SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUALITY.

WHICH IS THE BEST REASON TENNESSEE LAWMAKERS NEED TO EXAMINE THEIR HEARTS AND PUT A SCREECHING HALT TO THE DON'T SAY GAY BILL WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE

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TO A TOXIC ATMOSPHERE IN SCHOOLS BY TELLING TEACHERS THAT THEY CANNOT DISCUSS HOMOSEXUALITY, THE LEGISLATURE WOULD BE ENDORSING A FREE-FOR-ALL BULLYING OF GAYS.

THE BILL BREEDS HOSTILITY IN THE HIGHEST HALLS IN TENNESSEE AND THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR IT.

I THINK WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH OUR LEGISLATORS AND TELL THEM THAT WE OPPOSE SUCH A BILL.

LET ME TALK ONE MORE MINUTE ABOUT PRIDE IN THE CITY AND SOMETHING ELSE THAT HAPPENED.

THIS IS DIRECTLY RELATED I THINK TO HOW PEOPLE ARE TREATED IN OUR CITY.

THIS PAST JUNE ALL NASHVILLIANS CAME TOGETHER, A LOT OF NASHVILLIANS CAME TOGETHER TO HELP OUT IN TERMS OF TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF DIVERSITY BUT ALSO TO TAKE A STAND.

ON THAT PARTICULAR DATE THE FUNERAL WAS BEING HELD FOR A 27-YEAR-OLD SERGEANT NAMED SERGEANT BALDAUF WHO WAS KILLED FIGHTING FOR HIS COUNTRY IN AFGHANISTAN.

IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT THE WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH OUT OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, WAS PROTESTING FUNERALS OF HOMOSEXUAL SOLDIERS.

AND THEY USED FUNERALS OF ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOLDIERS JUST AS A MEANS TO PROMOTE THEIR ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA.

HUNDREDS OF NASHVILLIANS SHOWED UP THAT MORNING IN A COUNTERPROTEST.

ALL DOWN THE ROAD LEADING UP TO THE CHURCH WAS A SEA OF AMERICAN FLAGS AND BANNERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THE SERGEANT'S FAMILY.

FREE SPEECH WORKS BOTH WAYS.

AND SOMETIMES IT IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF HOW MANY SHOW UP AND WHO GETS THERE FIRST.

AS A RESULT OF WHAT HAPPENED HERE IN NASHVILLE, THAT SMALL GROUP OF WESTBORO PROTESTORS WERE UNABLE TO GET ANYWHERE NEAR THE FUNERAL AND LEFT AFTER TEN MINUTES.

NASHVILLIANS KNOW HOW TO, IN LINCOLN'S WORDS, PUT THEIR FEED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THEN STAND FIRM.

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THIS IS A GREAT CITY.

THIS IS A CITY WITH SO MUCH GROWING FOR IT.

BUT AS WE GROW, AND WE'RE GOING TO GROW, AND AS WE BECOME A MORE INTERESTING CITY AND MORE CULTURALLY AND -- AND MORE CULTURAL AMENITIES AND OTHER THINGS, WE CAN'T LOSE TRACK OF THE VALUE AND DIVERSITY, THE VALUE OF JUST BEING FRIENDLY AND TREATING EACH OTHER AS HUMAN BEINGS.

THAT IS WHAT REALLY MAKES NASHVILLE SPECIAL.

AND THAT IS THE REAL COUNTER TO HATE CRIMES IS THE WAY A CITY VIEWS ITSELF AND THE WAY WE PROTECT OURSELVES TO THE WORLD.

DENNIS SHEPARD IS THE FATHER OF MATTHEW SHEPPARD, A YOUNG MAN THAT CARED A LOT ABOUT OTHERS, ABOUT ACCEPTANCE, AND ABOUT EQUALITY.

HE WAS A WELL-ROUNDED KID, THE TYPE OF KID THAT ANY PARENT WOULD BE PROUD OF.

IN OBJECTED OF 1998 MATTHEW WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED BY TWO MEN FILLED WITH THE TYPE OF BIGOTRY AND HATE THAT MATTHEW WORKED AGAINST.

THE LOSS THAT YOUR FAMILY HAS GONE THROUGH, BROKE THE HEARTS OF PARENTS AROUND THE WORLD.

THE WAY YOU AND YOUR WIFE JUDY HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR GRIEF IN A RELENTLESS DESIRE TO MAKE LASTING CHANGE HAS INSPIRED MILLIONS.

NOT ONLY DID THEY FORM THE MATTHEW SHEPARD FOUNDATION WITH A MISSION TO PROMOTING POSITIVE CHANGE, THEY HAVE TRAVELED AROUND THE COUNTRY TREATING TO VICTIM ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AUDIENCE ABOUT THE EQUAL TREATMENT OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CRIME VICTIMS.

THERE ARE OVER A DECADES WORTH OF WORK INSTRUMENT TOLL THE ENACTMENT OF THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT.

NO DOUBT IN THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, THE BELLS OF FREEDOM RING LOUDER BECAUSE OF THE WORK THAT MR. SHEPARD AND HIS WIFE HAVE DONE ON BEHALF OF THEIR SON.

IT IS MY PLEASURE, IT IS MY HONOR, TO WELCOME TO NASHVILLE AND NOW TO INTRODUCE THE FATHER OF MATTHEW SHEPARD, MR. DENNIS SHEPARD.

>> THANK YOU EVERYONE.

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MR. DEAN, I APPRECIATE THE KIND WORDS.

I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW WELCOMING I WAS HERE UNTIL I WALKED DOWN THE HALLS OF THE HOTEL THIS MORNING AND SAW THE HEADLINES.

I JUST HOPE THAT YOU APPRECIATE WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING TO PROTECT THE KIDS. AND IF THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES, I'M ALL FOR IT.

WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT TODAY, FIRST OF ALL, LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING.

IT'S A VERY RARE DEAL, I -- WHEN I FIRST STARTED SPEAKING TO THE F.B.I. I CUT A DEAL.

AND USUALLY WHEN YOU CUT A DEAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OR THE F.B.I. IT MEANS YOU'VE BEEN A REALLY BAD BOY OR BAD GIRL.

FORTUNATELY THAT WASN'T THE CASE FOR ME.

IT WAS A TWO-PART DEAL.

THE FIRST PART WAS THE NEXT TIME I GET TO GO -- I GO TO WASHINGTON, D.C., I GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO THROUGH THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD.

WHICH IS THE F.B.I. OBSTACLE COURSE.

I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT DOING THAT, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

THE SECOND PART OF THE DEAL IS THE BEST PART, WHY ALL OF YOU ARE OUT HERE WEARING NICE CLOTHES, TIES, THE DEAL I MADE WAS I GET TO WEAR BOOTS AND WRANGLERS.

[ LAUGHTER ]

DURING MY TALK I'LL BE QUOTING FROM MY STATEMENT DIFFERENT TIMES.

OUTSIDE YOU'LL FIND A COPY OF MY COURT STATEMENT.

AND A WRISTBAND.

PLEASE TAKE ONE OF EACH.

THE REASON I WANT YOU TO TAKE MY STATEMENT, I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT HOME.

I WANT YOU TO READ IT TO YOURSELF, EITHER QUIETLY OR ALOUD AND PERHAPS IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR, I WANT YOU TO READ IT FROM THE STANDPOINT THAT YOU WERE STANDING IN FRONT OF THAT COURTROOM INSTEAD OF ME.

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I WANT YOU TO USE SOMEBODY ELSE'S NAME, SOMEONE THAT YOU'RE CLOSE TO.

A SON OR DAUGHTER, BROTHER, CLOSE FRIEND.

EVEN A CO-WORKER.

AND YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT PERSON FOR THE LAST TIME.

YOU HAVE TO TELL THE WORLD WHO THAT PERSON WAS FOR THE LAST TIME.

IN ADDITION, THERE'S A WRISTBAND.

THIS WRISTBAND IS THE FOUNDATION WRISTBAND.

IT HAS A WEB PAGE ON IT WHICH IS THE ORGANIZATIONAL WEB PAGE.

ON THE OTHER SIDE IS OUR MOTTO, ERASE HATE.

USE THIS AND GO TO THE WEB PAGE AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU FOR RESOURCES.

WE HAVE TWO DIFFERENT WEB PAGES.

THE FOUNDATION WEB PAGE AND ANOTHER WEB PAGE CALLED MATTHEW'S PLACE, FOR KIDS.

IT'S A RESOURCE FOR KIDS, THEIR FRIENDS, THEIR FAMILY, FOR THOSE KIDS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS.

THEY'RE NOT SURE WHO THEY ARE, WHY THEY ARE, WHERE THEY ARE.

WEAR THE WRISTBAND, PUT IT ON YOUR DESK, PIN IT TO YOUR WALL.

AS A REMINDER THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO NEED YOUR HELP.

THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

THEY NEED YOUR BACKING.

MAKE IT YOUR LIFE.

OH, WONDERFUL.

HOLD ON ONE MOMENT.

I JUST HAD FORGOT HOW TO USE THIS.

WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRONICS, JUDY DOES IT ALL.

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THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009 WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT OBAMA ON OCTOBER 28 OF 2009.

NOW, I WON'T TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFICS.

THIS IS A LITTLE TOO HIGH.

THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE MORE QUALIFIED TO DO SO.

BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS, THIS IS A -- A NEWS ARTICLE FOR THE FIRST PROSECUTION UNDER THE LAW.

IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

THEY ATTACKED FIVE GENTLEMEN OF HISPANIC ORIGIN, THREATENING THEM WITH TIRE IRONS.

THEY EVENTUALLY BUMPED THEIR VEHICLE ENOUGH ACROSS THE HIGHWAY THAT IT RAN INTO A TREE, INJURING ALL FIVE.

THE LAW IS BEING ENFORCED.

NOW, ON THE SCREEN YOU SEE A PHOTO OF JUDY AND ME IN JUNE OF 2010 SHE WAS HONORED AS THE GRAND MARSHAL OF THE NEW YORK CITY GAY PRIDE PARADE.

AND NO, THAT IS NOT MY PURPLE HAT THAT SHE'S WEARING.

IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO THEIR PARADE IN NEW YORK, IF YOU STARTED DRINKING BEER WHEN THE GRAND MARSHALS TOOK OFF AND YOU'RE THE LAST GROUP TO MARCH IN THE PARADE, YOU DRANK BEER FOR SIX TO EIGHT HOURS.

BUT JUST TO PROVE TO YOU THAT I DO LET JUDY DRESS ME UP OCCASIONALLY, HERE WE ARE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

WHEN PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNED THE ACT INTO LAW.

IT WAS THE CULMINATION OF TEN YEARS OF PEOPLE TELLING JUDY SHE COULDN'T GET IT DONE.

WHAT I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT ARE TWO SPECIFIC HATE CRIMES.

ONE BRIEFLY AND ONE IN GREAT DEAL.

HATE CRIMES THAT LED TO THIS LAW.

AND I NEED TO TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, PART OF WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR MAY BE DISTURBING.

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PERSONALLY, PROFESSIONALLY, OR BOTH.

I JUST WAVED AT YOU.

MOST OF ALL OF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE TRAGIC STORY OF JAMES BYRD JR.

ON JUNE 7, 1998, MR. BYRD WAS WALKING DOWN PAVED ROAD OUTSIDE OF JASPER, TEXAS, WHEN THREE MEN IN A PICKUP TRUCK STOPPED, BEAT HIM, TIED HIM TO THE BACK OF A TRUCK WITH A CHAIN AND DRAGGED HIM TO HIS DEATH ON THAT PAVED ROAD.

ONE OF THOSE THREE MEN, I KNOW YOU CAN'T READ IT VERY WELL, IT'S A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, HAS NOW BEEN EXECUTED FOR THIS CRIME.

A SECOND IS ON DEATH ROW APPEALING HIS SENTENCE.

AND A THIRD IS IN PRISON FOR LIFE.

THIS IS A VICIOUS AND TERRIBLE HATE CRIME.

ONE THAT MATT AND JUDY AND I DISCUSSED OVER DINNER ONE NIGHT.

NEVER KNOWING THAT ONE DAY OUR LIVES WOULD BE LINKED BY HATE CRIME.

WHO IS MATTHEW SHEPARD?

MOST IF NOT ALL OF YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT MATT.

MANY OF YOU CAN EVEN TELL ME WHERE YOU WERE AND WHAT YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU HEARD ABOUT HIS BEATING.

HOWEVER, MOST OF THE KIDS 20 YEARS AND YOUNGER HAVE NO IDEA WHO MATT IS.

AND WHAT WAS SO SIGNIFICANT ABOUT HIS DEATH.

OR THE IMPACT THAT HIS DEATH HAD IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

AS IT PERTAINS TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS.

NOW, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE '50S AND '60S RESULTED IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 SIGNED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON JULY 2nd OF 1964.

IT OUTLAWED DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

VOTING RIGHTS WERE EQUAL FOR ALL.

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WOMEN GAINED THE SAME PRIVILEGES AS MEN, AS SHOWN IN THE TITLE IX PORTION, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS GIVES EQUAL STATUS TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN'S SPORTS.

A REEDUCATION IS NEEDED TO MAKE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND APPRECIATE THE SACRIFICES MADE BY SO MANY, INCLUDING THE BEATING, THE BOMBINGS, AND THE MURDERS.

RIGHTS THAT THEY NOW TAKE FOR GRANTED, WALKING ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE.

IN A SIMILAR MANNER, MATT'S DEATH, THE WAY HE DIED AND THE REASONS BEHIND IT, FORCE SOCIETY TO LOOK AT THE BLATANT DISCRIMINATION, LACK OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTION GIVEN TO THE GAY COMMUNITY.

IT WAS THE NEXT STEP IN THE MOVEMENT TO BRING EQUALITY TO ALL AMERICANS. HE, TOO, MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE HIM IN THE FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY, SUCH AS THOSE BRAVE SOULS INVOLVED IN THE JUNE 28th, 1969 STONE WALL REBELLION IN GREENWICH VILLAGE WHICH IS CONSIDERED THE FIRST GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN AMERICA.

OR HARVEY MILK, THE FIRST OPENLY GAY MAN TO BE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE IN CALIFORNIA, WHO WAS SHOT AND KILLED ON NOVEMBER 27th, 1978, IN SAN FRANCISCO.

SO AGAIN, I ASK, WHO IS MATTHEW SHEPARD?

HE STOOD 5'2", WEIGHED 110 POUNDS.

HE WAS FLUENT IN ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND ITALIAN.

COULD MAKE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD IN JAPANESE AND ARABIC.

HE WAS TAKING FRENCH WHEN HE DIED.

HE PICKED UP LANGUAGES LIKE I PICK UP MY SOCKS.

HIS DREAM WAS TO WORK OVERSEAS USING HIS LANGUAGE SKILLS TO PROMOTE AMERICA AND AMERICA'S VALUES.

HE DEARLY LOVED AMERICA AND WHAT IT STOOD FOR.

MATTHEW DIED OCTOBER 12, 1998, SIX DAYS AFTER BEING TIED TO A FENCE, HIS SKULL FRACTURED IN 18 PLACES BY THE BUTT OF A 357 SMITH & WESSON PISTOL.

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HE WAS LEFT FOR DEAD.

HE WAS TWO MONTHS SHORT OF HIS 22nd BIRTHDAY.

MATTHEW WAS GAY.

FROM MY COURT STATEMENT, MY SON WAS TAUGHT TO LOOK AT ALL SIDES OF AN ISSUE BEFORE MAKING A DECISION OR TAKING A STAND.

HE LEARNED THIS EARLY WHEN HE HELPED CAMPAIGN FOR VARIOUS POLITICAL CANDIDATES WHILE IN GRADE SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH.

WHETHER HE DID TAKE A STAND IT WAS BASED ON HIS BEST JUDGMENT.

SUCH A STAND COST HIM HIS LIFE WHEN HE QUIETLY LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WAS GAY.

HE DIDN'T ADVERTISE IT, BUT HE DIDN'T BACK AWAY FROM THE ISSUE EITHER.

FOR THAT, I'LL ALWAYS BE PROUD OF HIM.

HE SHOWED ME HE'S A LOT MORE COURAGEOUS THAN MOST PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF.

MATTHEW KNEW THERE WERE DANGERS TO BEING GAY, BUT HE ACCEPTED THAT.

AND WANTED TO JUST GET ON WITH HIS LIFE AND HIS AMBITION OF HELPING OTHERS.

NOW, AFTER HIS DEATH JUDY HAD TO MAKE A DECISION.

SHOULD SHE GO BACK TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH ME AND PRETEND THAT SHE HAD ONLY ONE SON OR SHOULD SHE STAY IN THE STATES, DECLARE THAT SHE HAD TWO SONS, AND WORK TO PROTECT OTHER KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF HATE.

SHE DECIDED TO STAY AND FIGHT FOR THREE BIG REASONS.

FIRST OF ALL, SHE WAS PROUD OF BOTH OF HER SONS.

SECOND, SHE BELIEVED THAT EVERY CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS, GAY OR STRAIGHT, INCLUDING SUCH AREAS AS MARRIAGE, LIFE AND DEATH MEDICAL REASONS, SERVING IN THE MILITARY.

TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, ENJOY ALL THE RIGHTS THAT STRAIGHT SOCIETY CURRENTLY ENJOYED.

AND THIRD, AND TO ME THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, YOU NEVER PISS OFF A MOTHER.

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LET ME CLARIFY THIS A LITTLE BIT.

THIS LAST STATEMENT.

SHE WAS PISSED OFF BECAUSE ONE, SHE LOVED HER SON.

AND HER SON WAS DEAD BECAUSE HE WAS CONSIDERED DIFFERENT.

TWO, BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO MOURN THE LOSS OF HER SON AND SAY GOOD-BYE TO HER FIRSTBORN.

AND HOW CAN THAT HAPPEN WHEN THERE WERE BOMB-SNIFFING DOGS GOING THROUGH THE CHURCH PRIOR TO THE FUNERAL SERVICES?

YOU HAVE TWO S.W.A.T. TEAMS STATIONED NEAR THE CHURCH DURING HIS FUNERAL SERVICES.

AND YOU HAVE PROTESTORS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER YOUR SON'S FUNERAL SERVICES.

BECAUSE AN ENTIRE GROUP OF PEOPLE LIVED IN FEAR, BECAUSE THEY WERE BIOLOGICALLY KEYED AND BORN TO SOMEONE OF THE SAME SEX.

BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO HUG ANOTHER YOUNG MAN OR YOUNG LADY AS HE OR SHE CRIED ON JUDY'S SHOULDER AND TOLD OF BEING BULLIED, REJECTED, AND/OR KICKED OUT OF THEIR HOME AND THAT JUDY WAS THE MOTHER THEY WISHED THEY HAD.

BECAUSE THE LAWS WEREN'T PROTECTING THOSE THAT NEEDED PROTECTION.

AND BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T ACT AND REACT AS A NORMAL MOURNING MOTHER DURING THE TRIAL OF HER SON'S MURDERERS.

LET ME CLARIFY THIS LAST STATEMENT A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE TRIAL.

TWO 21-YEAR-OLD MEN, RUSSELL HENDERSON AND AARON MCKINNEY WERE ARRESTED FOR THE MURDER OF MATT.

RUSSELL HENDERSON PLED GUILTY TO ALL CHARGES BEFORE HIS TRIAL BEGAN.

HE WAS SENTENCED TO TWO CONSECUTIVE LIFE SENTENCES WITHOUT PAROLE.

AARON MCKINNEY WENT TO TRIAL, AND HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED THE SAME TWO CONSECUTIVE LIFE SENTENCES WITHOUT PAROLE.

NOW, DURING AARON MCKINNEY'S TRIAL I WAS STILL LIVING AND WORKING IN SAUDI ARABIA.

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JUDY CALLED ME AND SAID THE JURY IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE DIRECTION.

I HOPPED ON A PLANE AND FLEW BACK.

I ARRIVED THE NIGHT BEFORE THE JURY WAS TO BE SEQUESTERED.

THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN DIRECTIONS ON THE PROCEDURES FOR DELIBERATING AND REACHING A VERDICT.

DURING THE TRIAL JUDY SAT ALL ALONE IN THE FRONT ROW, BEHIND THE PROSECUTOR, NO ONE ELSE IN THAT ROW, JUST LISTENING AND WATCHING.

ALL ALONE WITH HER THOUGHTS, HER FEELINGS, AND HER GRIEF OF HER SON.

SHE HEARD THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BY THE VARIOUS WITNESSES, STATEMENTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, SHE HEARD THE DESCRIPTIONS OF HIS INJURIES, THE DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTOPSY PERFORMED, SHE SAW THE PHOTOS.

WORST OF ALL, SHE HEARD TESTIMONY THAT MATT MAY HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS THE ENTIRE 18 HOURS THAT HE WAS TIED TO THAT FENCE.

SHE HEARD ALL THIS TESTIMONY WHILE SHOWING ABSOLUTELY NO EMOTION.

WHY?

BECAUSE SHE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ANY DISPLAY OF EMOTIONS OR REACTIONS TO ANYTHING THAT SHE'D HEAR OR SEE MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE DEFENSE TO APPEAL THE VERDICT BECAUSE SHE HAD UNDULY INFLUENCED THE JURY.

TO THIS DAY I HAVE NO IDEA HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO DO THAT.

FOR ALL THE REASONS LISTED ABOVE, JUDY STAYED.

AND SHE TRAVELED AND SHE SPOKE AND SHE LOBBIED AND SHE TRAVELED AND SHE SPOKE AND SHE LOBBIED, MORE THAN A MILLION AIR MILES.

UNTOLD NUMBERS OF CAR MILES, HOURS SITTING IN AIRPORTS, NO LIFE.

AND THE RESULT OF HAVING NO LIFE OF HER OWN FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, IS THE EXPANSION OF THE FEDERAL HATE CRIME LEGISLATION WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE HERE TODAY.

NOW, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE WORLD DIDN'T END, AS SO MANY SAID WOULD HAPPEN, WHEN THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THE HATE CRIME BILL.

AND I'VE BEEN TOLD BY SEVERAL PEOPLE THAT THE LAW WHICH SHE FOUGHT SO HARD FOR WAS A TRIGGER EVENT THAT LED TO THE REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL."

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BECAUSE THE WORLD DID NOT COME TO AN END.

AND THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY DOMA IS NO LONGER BEING PROSECUTED.

I CAN'T EXPRESS TO YOU HOW PROUD I AM OF HER AND WHAT SHE'S ACCOMPLISHED.

SO WHY DID MATT DIE?

HE ALONG WITH SO MANY OTHERS DIED BECAUSE THEY'RE GAY OR THEY'RE PERCEIVED TO BE GAY.

THEY DIE BECAUSE IT'S OPEN SEASON ON ALL OF THEM.

MANY DIED AT THE HANDS OF OTHERS.

MANY MORE HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE.

LIKE THE TWO YOUNG MEN IN THE LAST 30 DAYS, BECAUSE THEY GAVE UP ANY HOPE OF BEING CONSIDERED EQUAL AND THEY WERE WORN OUT FROM THE FEAR AND THE CONSTANT BULLYING.

A SUICIDE RATE THAT IS SO MUCH HIGHER THAN YOU FIND IN THE STRAIGHT COMMUNITY.

FEAR BROUGHT ON BY THE TERROR AND THE WORRY OF BEING ATTACKED ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

THIS CAUSES ADDITIONAL TERROR, TERROR THAT'S BOTH MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL.

FEAR TO GO OUT, FEAR THAT THE PERSON COMING UP FROM BEHIND OR FROM THE SIDE IS GOING TO ATTACK AND HURT YOU.

AGAIN, IT COMES BACK TO THE CONCEPT OF OPEN SEASON ON THE GAY COMMUNITY AND ON THOSE PERCEIVED TO BE GAY OR DIFFERENT.

NOW, I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT BUT I TERRORIZED KIDS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

I DON'T THINK IT WAS INTENTIONAL, BUT I SEE NOW THAT I DID SO.

I TRIED TO FIND THOSE PEOPLE AND APOLOGIZE.

I THINK ABOUT IT NOW AND REALIZE THAT I HELPED MAKE THEIR LIFE HELL ON EARTH AT A TIME WHEN THEY WERE ALREADY UNDER STRESS.

I BRUSHED OFF THOSE I THOUGHT WERE WEIRD, NEVER REALIZING ALL THEY WANTED WAS A HELLO AND A SMILE, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WERE PART OF THE HUMAN RACE.

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I USED THE WORDS AND NEVER THOUGHT ANYTHING ABOUT IT, "QUEER," "FAGGOT," "HOMO," CAME OUT OF MY MOUTH AS EASY AS BREATHING.

I TOLD THE JOKES, JESSE JAMES COMES RIDING INTO TOWN WITH HIS GANG. THE QUEER COMES RUNNING UP TO HIM, HEY, JESSE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'RE HERE TO BURN THIS TOWN, RAPE THE WOMEN, AND HANG THE QUEERS. WELL, JESSE, YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME.

NOT REALLY THAT FUNNY.

I CAN SEE WHERE IT WOULD HURT.

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO ONE OF MY FRATERNITY BROTHERS CALLED ME. AFTER COLLEGE HE JUST DISAPPEARED.

FOR 40 YEARS.

HE WAS IN CHEYENNE, ABOUT 200 MILES AWAY, AND WANTED TO KNOW IF I WAS GOING TO BE HOME THAT DAY.

I SAID I SURE WAS.

TWO HOURS LATER THERE'S A KNOCK ON MY DOOR.

AFTER A BIG HUG AND ME YELLING AT HIM FOR DISAPPEARING, WE HAD A BEER.

AND THEN WE HAD ANOTHER ONE.

AND THEN WE HAD ANOTHER ONE.

WE STAYED UP MOST OF THE NIGHT.

HE DROVE UP TO TELL US HE WAS GAY.

AND TO THANK US FOR THE WORK WE'VE BEEN DOING IN MATT'S NAME.

NOBODY KNEW IT IN COLLEGE.

HE WAS THANKING ME, A PERSON WHO UNINTENTIONALLY MADE HIS LIFE MISERABLE.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HUMBLING THAT WAS.

SO HE STAYED THE NIGHT, HE LEFT THE NEXT DAY, PROMISING TO COME BACK, WE WERE MAKING PLANS.

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HE'S BRINGING HIS PARTNER, WHICH IS A GOOD DEAL.

BECAUSE I HAVE LOTS OF BLACKMAIL STORIES THAT HE CAN USE.

NOW, WHAT I DID WAS NO MORE THAN LEARNED BEHAVIOR.

IT WAS LEARNED AT HOME, IT WAS LEARNED AT SCHOOL, IT WAS LEARNED THROUGH YOUR FRIENDS, IT'S LEARNED THROUGH THE MEDIA, AND IT'S LEARNED THROUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT.

NOW, I HAVE THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

EVERY DAY WHEN YOU WALK OUT THE DOOR OF YOUR HOME YOU GO UNDER IMMEDIATE AND INCREDIBLE STRESS TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY, MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY, NEVER KNOWING IF YOU'LL COME HOME.

STRESS GOES INTO YOUR FAMILY LIFE.

HOWEVER, I PUT A LOT OF THE BLAME FOR MATT'S DEATH AND THE DEATHS OF OTHERS FROM THE GAY COMMUNITY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT BECAUSE YOU, MOST, NOT ALL, LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT THAT, JUST LAUGH IT OFF WHENEVER A COMPLAINT OF A BEATING OR HARASSMENT CAME IN FROM THE GAY COMMUNITY.

YOU AGAIN, THE MAJORITY, NOT ALL, BUT THE MAJORITY IGNORE THE ATTACK AND BRUSH OFF THE BEATINGS AND THE BULLYING.

THAT JUST ENCOURAGED MORE ATTACKS.

YOU CREATED THE OPEN SEASON I MENTIONED EARLIER.

HENDERSON AND MCKINNEY ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES.

THEY BEAT MATT BECAUSE THEY FIGURED NO ONE WOULD CARE BECAUSE HE'S JUST ANOTHER FAG.

AND I QUOTE THAT.

FORTUNATELY THIS TIME THE BAD GUYS WERE WRONG.

MAYBE IF THEY HAD JUST BEATEN HIM A LITTLE BIT, THINGS MIGHT HAVE CONTINUED AS BEFORE.

BUT WHEN THAT BEATING BECAME A BRUTAL AND VICIOUS MURDER, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND THE LARAMIE POLICE DEPARTMENT REALIZED THAT THEY TRULY AND HONESTLY DID CARE.

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I WANT TO FOLLOW THAT UP WITH THIS BLUNT STATEMENT TO YOU IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU'RE LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE, OR FEDERAL, WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE LAW, IT IS THE LAW.

YOU CAN'T PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT LAWS YOU WANT TO ENFORCE.

YOU TOOK AN OATH TO PROTECT AND SERVE.

THAT MEANS PROTECT AND SERVE EVERYONE AND THAT MEANS ENFORCE ALL THE LAWS.

AND IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU NEED TO FIND ANOTHER PROFESSION.

AND IF THAT HURTS YOUR FEELINGS, SO BE IT.

THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL.

READING FROM MY STATEMENT, MATT'S GIFT WAS PEOPLE.

HE LOVED BEING WITH PEOPLE.

HELPING PEOPLE OR MAKING OTHERS FEEL GOOD.

THE HOPE OF A BETTER WORLD, FREE OF HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE A PERSON WAS DIFFERENT KEPT HIM MOTIVATED.

ALL HIS LIFE HE FELT STABS OF DISCRIMINATION.

BECAUSE OF THAT HE WAS SENSITIVE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.

HE WAS NAIVE TO THE EXTENT THAT REGARDLESS OF THE WRONGS PEOPLE DID TO HIM, HE STILL HAD FAITH THEY WOULD CHANGE AND BECOME NICE.

HE TRUSTED PEOPLE.

PERHAPS TOO MUCH.

VIOLENCE WAS NOT A PART OF HIS LIFE UNTIL HIS SENIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

HE WOULD WALK INTO A FIGHT AND TRY TO BREAK IT UP.

HE WAS THE PERFECT NEGOTIATOR.

HE COULD GET TWO PEOPLE TALKING TO EACH OTHER AGAIN AS NO ONE ELSE COULD.

HE LOVED PEOPLE AND HE TRUSTED THEM.

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HE COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW ONE PERSON COULD HURT ANOTHER, PHYSICALLY OR VERBALLY.

THEY WOULD HURT HIM, HE WOULD GIVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE.

THIS QUALITY OF SEEING ONLY GOOD GAVE HIM FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD.

HE DIDN'T SEE SIZE, RACE, INTELLIGENCE, SEX, RELIGION, OR THE 100 OTHER THINGS THAT PEOPLE USE TO MAKE CHOICES ABOUT PEOPLE.

ALL HE SAW WAS THE PERSON.

ALL HE WANTED WAS TO MAKE ANOTHER PERSON HIS FRIEND.

ALL HE WANTED WAS TO MAKE ANOTHER PERSON FEEL GOOD.

ALL HE WANTED WAS TO BE ACCEPTED AS AN EQUAL.

NOW THESE DAYS OLD GEEZERS LIKE ME ARE TRYING TO LOCK IN SOMETHING THAT TODAY'S KIDS THINK IS UNIMPORTANT.

SO YOU'RE GAY.

SO WHAT.

YOU WANT TO MARRY YOUR PARTNER?

CONGRATULATIONS.

THEY'VE GROWN UP WITH "WILL AND GRACE," "MODERN FAMILY" AND LADY GAGA.

THEY'RE MORE CONCERNED WITH FINDING A JOB, PAYING OFF THEIR DEBTS, AND WATCHING "DANCING WITH THE STARS."

THAN THEY ARE ABOUT WHO'S MARRYING OR LIVING WITH WHOM.

AND AS A SIDEBAR, TO TODAY'S KIDS MANY CORPORATIONS WHEN EXPANDING TO NEW CITIES WANT TO KNOW IF THERE'S AN ACTIVE GAY COMMUNITY.

IF THERE IS, IT'S A SIGN OF AN OPEN-MINDED, FORWARD-LOOKING LOCATION WITH POTENTIAL FOR ATTRACTING QUALITY EMPLOYEES.

AND NASHVILLE SEEMS TO BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR THAT.

NOW LAST FATHER'S DAY I DIDN'T GET A FATHER'S CARD OR A PHONE CALL FROM ONE OF MY TWO SONS.

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WHY?

BECAUSE MY SON COULDN'T CALL.

WHY?

BECAUSE MY SON IS DEAD.

WHY?

BECAUSE HE WAS CONSIDERED DIFFERENT.

MATT ONCE ASKED ME IN A MOMENT OF ANGUISH WHY WAS I BORN GAY?

WHY CANTED I BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

MY REPLY?

SON, GOD MADE YOU GAY FOR A REASON.

YOU'RE STILL NORMAL.

ENJOY BEING WHO YOU ARE.

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD.

AND REMEMBER THIS, YOUR MOTHER, BROTHER, AND I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO.

I MISS HIM VERY MUCH.

AGAIN, FROM MY STATEMENT, BY THE ENDS OF THE BEATING HIS BODY WAS JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE.

MR. MCKINNEY, YOU LEFT HIM OUT THERE BY HIMSELF, BUT HE WASN'T ALONE.

THERE WERE HIS LIFELONG FRIENDS WITH HIM, FRIENDS THAT HE HAD GROWN UP WITH.

YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHO THESE FRIENDS WERE?

FIRST, HE HAD THE BEAUTIFUL NIGHT SKY, THE SAME STARS AND MOON THAT WE USED TO LOOK AT THROUGH A TELESCOPE.

THEN HE HAD THE DAYLIGHT AND THE SUN TO SHINE ON HIM ONE MORE TIME.

ONE MORE COOL, WONDERFUL AUTUMN DAY IN WYOMING.

HIS LAST DAY ALIVE IN WYOMING.

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HIS LAST DAY ALIVE IN A STATE THAT HE ALWAYS PROUDLY CALLED HOME.

AND THROUGH IT ALL HE WAS BREATHING IN FOR THE LAST TIME THE SMELL OF SAGE BRUSH AND THE SCENT OF PINE TREES FROM THE RANGE.

HE HEARD THE WIND, THE EVER-PRESENT WYOMING WIND FOR THE LAST TIME.

HE HAD ONE MORE FRIEND WITH HIM, ONE HE GREW TO KNOW AND LOVE THROUGH HIS TIME IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND AS AN ACOLYTE AT ST. MARK'S IN CASPER AS WELL AS TO HIS VISITS TO ST. MATTHEW'S IN LARAMIE.

HE HAD GOD.

I FEEL BETTER KNOWING HE WASN'T ALONE.

TODAY WE HAD THE MATTHEW SHEPARD JAMES BYRD JR. HATE PREVENTION LAW THAT INCREASES PROTECTION AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZEN.

HOWEVER, THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

DISCRIMINATION STILL CONTINUES.

I ASK ALL OF YOU TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN YOUR LOCAL AND STATE COMMUNITIES.

TO HELP STOP THE BULLYING, TO HELP END DISCRIMINATION, AND TO HELP ENSURE THAT ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE ALL THE SAME RIGHTS AND THAT THESE RIGHTS ARE EQUAL RIGHTS.

MOST IMPORTANT WAY OF DOING THIS IS BY VOTING.

KNOW THE ISSUES AND THE STANDS TAKEN BY THE CANDIDATES.

AND VOTE.

THEN HOLD THESE ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE.

THEY WORK FOR YOU.

YOU DON'T WORK FOR THEM.

QUESTION THEM, WRITE THEM, CALL THEM, IF THEY ARE NOT MEETING YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

AS JUDY SAYS, DO NOT BECOME PART OF THE SICK SOCIETY.

SILENCE, INDIFFERENCE, COMPLACENCE.

ALL OF YOU HOLDS THE POWER TO MAKE CHANGE.

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NOT THE LOBBYISTS.

I REPEAT, VOTE.

FOLLOW-UP, VERIFY, THEN VOTE AGAIN.

FROM MY STATEMENT.

WHEN MATT WAS LITTLE I USED TO TAKE SHOWERS WITH HIM, JUST TO TEACH HIM NOT TO BE SCARED OF THE WATER.

LATER MATT HELPED ME DO THE SAME THING WITH LOGAN.

ANYWAY, MATT AND I WOULD BE IN THE WATER SPITTING MOUTHFULS OF WATER AT EACH OTHER OR AT HIS MOTHER IF HE COULD CONVINCED HER TO COME IN THE BATHROOM.

THEY WOULD LAUGH AND LAUGH.

WE'D ALSO SING IN THE SHOWERS.

I TAUGHT HIM THE SONGS "ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT" OR "BROTHER JOHN" AND "TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR."

MATT WOULD SING LOUD AND CLEAR.

NOW THAT VOICE IS SILENT.

THE BOAT HAS SUNK.

JACQUE NO LONGER HAS A FRERE AND LITTLE STAR NO LONGER TWINKLES.

ONE LAST THING.

AND IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL.

IF YOU REMEMBER NOTHING ELSE ABOUT WHAT I SAID TODAY, REMEMBER THIS.

MATTHEW WAS NOT MY GAY SON.

HE WAS MY SON WHO HAPPENED TO BE GAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU, DENNIS.

AT THIS TIME WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A SHORT TEN-MINUTE BREAK.

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IF YOU CAN -- THERE'S REFRESHMENTS IN THE LOBBY.

WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO COME BACK IN TEN MINUTES SO WE CAN GET THE PROGRAM STARTED.

AGAIN, DENNIS, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

WE THANK -- TELL JUDY WE MISSED HER.

SHE'S HERE IN SPIRIT.

AND THANK YOU ALL FOR BOTH OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO IN THE MEMORY OF MATTHEW.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> IN THE AFTERMATH OF MATTHEW'S DEATH.

WE'RE GOING TO TURN OUR ATTENTION NOW TO LOOKING AT THE LAW TO FINDING OUT HOW WE CAN WORK WITHIN THE LAW AND WITH OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

THIS GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE TO YOU ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY BLANCHE COOK.

YOU KNOW, I CAN TELL YOU THAT OUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS WORK INTO THE WEE HOURS.

SHE AND I HAVE HAD PHONE CONVERSATIONS AND EMAILS PASSING AT TIMES WHEN THE REST OF US ARE ASLEEP.

BLANCHE IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE ON THE FRONT LINES PROSECUTING THE PEOPLE WHO DO US HARM.

SHE'S A GRADUATE OF VASSAR COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL, SIX YEARS IN THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HERE IN NASHVILLE AND WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE HER HERE.

PRIOR TO THAT SHE WAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AS A LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEY IN CHICAGO.

PLEASE WELCOME TO THE PODIUM, SHE'S ACTUALLY ALREADY HERE, BLANCHE COOK.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU.

A FEW THINGS.

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ONE, I WANTED TO THANK CAROLINE BLACKWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

SHE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

CAROLINE IS A FEARLESS AND TIRELESS WORKER.

I ALSO WANTED TO THANK COMMUNITY RELATION SERVICE, OUR PARTNERS, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

MOST IMPORTANTLY I ALSO WANTED TO REACH OUT TO DENNIS SHEPARD.

I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THE WORK WE DO IN OUR OFFICE HONORS YOUR SON'S LEGACY.

INITIALLY I JUST WANTED TO SET SOME GROUND RULES FOR ALL OF US.

I HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNTED OF TIME, BUT I DO ENCOURAGE YOU TO ASK ME QUESTIONS.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO ASK ME QUESTIONS BECAUSE IT MAKES ME MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE TO WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR AND IN ADDITION, IF YOU DON'T, I HAVE SLIDES AND SLIDES AND SLIDES OF LEGAL ELEMENTS TO FEDERAL STATUTES THAT I CAN GO OVER IN DETAIL WITH YOU.

THAT WOULD BE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE.

I'M MORE THAN WILLING TO SUBJECT YOU TO THAT.

BEFORE I GO ON ANY FURTHER, HOW MANY OF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH OUR OFFICE AND THAT IS THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE?

THAT'S A SIZABLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU IF YOU'RE PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH OUR OFFICE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

THAT'S JUST A GENERAL IDEA.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, WE ARE THE CHIEF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT.

IT'S OUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROSECUTE FEDERAL CRIMES AND ALSO TO LITIGATE CIVIL ACTIONS INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES.

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THERE ARE 93 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

THEY ARE ALL HEADED BY A UNITED STATES ATTORNEY.

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY HERE IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE IS JERRY MARTIN.

HE WAS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA.

I NEED TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OUR OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

WE'RE NOT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, WE'RE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ARE PROSECUTORS AND LAWYERS FOR THE STATE.

THEY PROSECUTE STATE LAWS.

THEY PROSECUTE AND LITIGATE IN STATE COURTS.

WE WORK ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

WE PRACTICE IN FEDERAL COURTS.

WE WORK IN TANDEM WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES BUT ALSO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

AND WE ENFORCE FEDERAL LAWS.

VERY BRIEFLY, THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF LAWS.

THERE ARE STATE LAWS, MUNICIPAL LAWS, FEDERAL LAWS.

IT WOULD TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY TO DEFINE EXACTLY WHAT A FEDERAL LAW IS IN DISTINCTION TO A STATE LAW, BUT JUST VERY BRIEFLY, TWO CATEGORIES OF LAWS THAT YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH, ARE LAWS THAT AFFECT INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

THAT WOULD FALL UNDER THE RULE BOOK OF A FEDERAL LAW.

IF YOU WERE TO COMMIT A CRIME ON FEDERAL PROPERTY, THAT MAY BE A FEDERAL LAW THAT YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH.

SO IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WERE TO COMMIT MURDER IN A NATIONAL PARK, THAT COULD BE PROSECUTED AS A FEDERAL CRIME.

IF YOU SPEED ON THE NATCHEZ TRACE, THAT IN FACT IS A FEDERAL CRIME.

IT WON'T RISE TO THE OCCASION OF A FELONY, BUT IT WOULD BE A MISDEMEANOR.

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SO HAVING STATED THE CIVIC JOURNEY, I WANTED TO GET TO THE MEAT OF THE MATTER.

AT LEAST FOR PURPOSES OF MY PRESENTATION.

THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY THREE GOALS WITHIN THE TIME THAT I HAVE THAT I WANTED TO GO OVER WITH YOU.

AND THEY ARE WHAT ARE HATE CRIMES, HOW THEY ARE PROSECUTED, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME.

I DEFINITELY WANTED TO ALLOT TIME TO GO OVER THAT.

THERE'S A DISTINCTION TO BE DRAWN BETWEEN CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

THE MAIN DISTINCTION IS JAIL TIME.

IF YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL CRIME, THAT IS A CRIME THAT WOULD INVOLVE A DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY BECAUSE THAT WOULD INVOLVE A CRIMINAL SENTENCE.

A CIVIL PROSECUTION IN WHICH IS ONE IN WHICH YOU HAVE DAMAGES.

SO I WANTED TO DRAW THAT DISTINCTION AT THE OUTSET.

THERE IS A BROAD RUBRIC OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.

THERE IS A BROAD RUBRIC OF HATE CRIMES AND HATE CRIME LEGISLATION.

BUT I WANTED TO FOCUS IN ON A COUPLE OF SPECIFIC AREAS AND ALSO TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF WHAT A HATE CRIME IS, PARTICULARLY AS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

A HATE CRIME IS SOME SORT OF VIOLENT, INTIMIDATING OFFENSE LIKE MURDER, ARSON, OR VANDALISM BUT IT HAS THE ADDED DIMENSION OF BEING MOTIVATED BY SOME SORT OF BIAS.

SO IT IS VERY MUCH A TRADITIONAL CRIME FOR PURPOSES OF HATE CRIMES, LIKE VANDALISM, LIKE MURDER, BUT THE ADDED DIMENSION TO ALL OF THIS IS THAT IT IS MOTIVATED BY YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN A PROTECTED CATEGORY.

THOSE PROTECTED CATEGORIES ARE RACE, ETHNICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR DISABILITY.

THE PART ABOUT HATE CRIMES THAT I WANT YOU TO COME AWAY FROM UNDERSTANDING IS THE DIFFICULTY OF PROVING THAT A CASE OR A CRIME IS MOTIVATED BY YOUR -- YOUR PROTECTED STATUS.

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AND I'LL GET INTO THAT IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL.

BUT I DO WANT YOU TO TUNE IN TO THAT.

VERY QUICKLY, JUST SO THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROTECTED CATEGORIES, THE PROTECTED CATEGORIES DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR HAIR COLOR, DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR WHAT POLITICAL PARTY YOU BELONG TO.

THERE IS NO PROTECTION UNDER FEDERAL LAW FOR SIZE DISCRIMINATION, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE THOSE PROTECTIONS UNDER STATE LAW.

NOW, BEFORE ANY OF YOU BREAK OUT IN UMBRAGE OR FLAIL YOUR ARMS AND QUESTIONING THIS, I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT THERE SHOULDN'T BE OTHER CATEGORIES THAT ARE PROTECTED.

I'M SIMPLY SAYING THAT THESE ARE THE CATEGORIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED NOW AND THE CATEGORIES THAT ARE NOT RECOGNIZED.

SIMILARLY THERE ARE NO FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR TATTOO, PIERCING, BEING LOUD, BEING SHY, BEING NOISY.

THOSE ARE NOT PROTECTED CATEGORIES.

AGAIN, IT GOES TO YOUR RACE, YOUR ETHNICITY, YOUR NATIONAL ORIGIN, YOUR GENDER, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEXUAL IDENTITY AND I THINK I MENTIONED RELIGION.

TO SET THIS IN SOME SORT OF CONTEXT, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MAKE AN ARGUMENT THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A SOCIETY AND THERE'S NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR HATE CRIMES OR THAT HATE CRIMES SHOULD BE PUNISHABLE LIKE ANY OTHER KIND OF OFFENSE OR THEY'RE JUST NOT INTERESTED IN PURSUING THE ISSUE OF HATE CRIMES AT ALL BECAUSE FOR WHATEVER REASON THEY FIND IT DISTURBING TO THEM.

TO PUT THIS IN SOME SORT OF HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND GIVE IT A SLANT, I PULLED THESE RECORDS FROM THE F.B.I. WEBSITE.

JUST TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT IS GOING ON OUT THERE, IN 2007 THE F.B.I. DOCUMENTED 7,621 HATE CRIME INCIDENTS.

AMOUNTING TO NEARLY ONE INCIDENT PER HOUR PER YEAR.

50% OF THE REPORTED HATE CRIMES WERE MOTIVATED BY RACIAL BIAS, 18% RELIGIOUS BIAS, 17% SEXUAL ORIENTATION BIAS, 13% ETHNIC/NATIONAL ORIGIN BIAS.

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THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CRIMES DIRECTED AT LATINOS HAVE STEADILY INCREASED A 40% INCREASE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2007.

I'M GOING TO FLASH THROUGH SOME OF THESE SLIDES, GIVEN THE TIME THAT I HAVE, BUT AGAIN, I JUST WANTED TO PROVIDE SOME SORT OF CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU CAN VIEW THIS.

AT SOME LEVEL I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SPENDING AN ENTIRE DAY DEVOTED TO HATE CRIMES ARE POSSIBLY NOT THE PEOPLE THAT I HAVE TO CONVINCED THAT THERE SHOULD BE HATE CRIMES.

BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE'RE ALL HERE TO LOOK AT THIS IN ITS ENTIRETY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A GAMUT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF CRIMES CREATED TOWARDS A GAMUT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND I WANTED TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE THERE.

WHAT YOU HAVE IN FRONT OF YOU IS TITLE XVIII UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 241.

IT IS THE GO-TO STATUTE FOR A LOT OF HATE CRIMES.

I WILL GET TO THE MATTHEW SHEPARD/JAMES BYRD ACT IN A MOMENT.

BUT I ALSO WANTED TO BRING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION BECAUSE THIS IS A STATUTE THAT IS USED VERY COMMONLY TO PROSECUTE A LOT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF HATE CRIMES AND I WILL DEMONSTRATE TO YOU WHY IT IS A BIT MORE EASY OF A STATUTE TO DEAL WITH FOR FEDERAL PROSECUTORS.

SECTION 241 MAKES IT A VIOLATION, A FEDERAL VIOLATION TO CONSPIRE TO INJURE, OPPRESS, THREATEN OR INTIMIDATED ANOTHER PERSON IN THE EXERCISE OR ENJOYMENT OF THEIR LIFE UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THE PENALTY IS UP TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON AND UP TO LIFE IF THE OFFENSE INVOLVES KIDNAPPING, AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE, ATTEMPT TO KILL OR DEATH PENALTY CAN RESULT.

AGAIN, I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR BUT THERE'S MISCONCEPTION THAT IS I NEED TO CLARIFY FOR ALL OF US.

THESE LAWS, THESE HATE CRIME LAWS DO NOT REGULATE YOUR THOUGHT.

ARE WE ALL CLEAR THERE?

THESE LAWS DO NOT REGULATE YOUR THINKING.

EVERYONE OKAY THERE?

WHAT WE'RE DOING IS CRIMINALIZING YOUR CONDUCT.

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RIGHT?

SO IT'S NOT THAT WE'RE CRIMINALIZING ANY IDEAS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT RACIAL SUPREMACY OR HOMOPHOBIA.

I'M NOT SUGGESTING THOSE ARE GOOD THINGS, BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT THE THOUGHT PROCESS THAT'S BEING REGULATED THROUGH THESE LAWS.

IT IS YOUR CONDUCT.

OKAY?

WHEN YOU ACTUALLY TAKE AN ACT TO WORK WITH SOMEONE ELSE IN SOME SORT OF CONCERTED ACTIVITY, TO DEPRIVE SOMEONE ELSE OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, THAT KIND OF CONDUCT WOULD FALL UNDER THIS STATUTE.

THE OTHER THING I NEED TO MENTION FOR EVERYONE, AND AGAIN, I THINK I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR HERE, IS THAT WE'RE ALL PROTECTED BY THESE LAWS.

THESE ARE NOT SPECIALTY LAWS THAT ONLY GIVE CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY PROTECTION.

THEY ARE PROTECTIONS THAT ARE OPEN TO ALL OF US.

ANY QUESTIONS THUS FAR?

ANY AT ALL?

OKAY.

I'LL ADVANCE NOW TO SECTION 245.

SECTION 245 ALSO OF TITLE XVIII IS ANOTHER CRIMINAL STATUTE USED IN THE PROSECUTION OF A NUMBER OF HATE CRIMES.

AND A NUMBER OF CRIMES THAT INVOLVE DISCRIMINATION.

UNDER SECTION 245 IT IS A -- IT IS CRIMINAL TO WILLFULLY INJURE, INTIMIDATE OR INTERFERE WITH ANY PERSON OR ATTEMPT TO DO SO BY FORCING OR THREATENING FORCE BECAUSE OF THAT PERSON'S RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

AS IT RELATES TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN ACTIVITIES, AND I'LL GO THROUGH A COUPLE OF BULLET POINTS OF THOSE EXAMPLES.

IF YOU ARE A STUDENT FOR ADMISSION TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR COLLEGE.

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IF SOMEONE INTERFERES WITH YOUR RIGHT TO DO THAT, ON THE BASIS OF YOUR PROTECTED CATEGORY, THAT WOULD FALL UNDER SECTION 245.

THAT MIGHT RISE TO THE OCCASION OF A SECTION 245 VIOLATION, DEPENDING ON WHAT THE EVIDENCE IS.

A PARTICIPANT IN A BENEFIT SERVICE, PRIVILEGED PROGRAM FACILITY OR ACTIVITY PROVIDED OR ADMINISTERED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THAT WOULD ALSO FALL WITHIN THE RUBRIC OF PROTECTED ACTIVITIES.

THE APPLICANT FOR A PRIVATE OR STATE EMPLOYMENT, PRIVATE OR STATE EMPLOYEE MEMBER OR APPLICANT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN A LABOR ORGANIZATION OR HIRING HALL OR AN APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, LABOR ORGANIZATION OR HIRING CALL.

IF THAT IS THE ACTIVITY THAT YOU ARE ENGAGED IN AND ONCE AGAIN YOU ARE PROHIBITED OR INTERFERED WITH OR THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THAT KIND OF ACTIVITY, THAT WOULD FALL UNDER SECTION 245.

IF YOU ARE A JUROR OR PROSPECTIVE JUROR IN A STATE COURT, IF YOU'RE A TRAVELER OR USER OF A FACILITY OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE OR COMMON CARRIER, IF YOU ARE A PATRON OF A PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION OR PLACE OF EXHIBITION OR ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING HOTELS, MOTELS, RESTAURANTS, AND STADIUMS, AGAIN, IF YOU ARE INTERFERED WITH, IF THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY IS INTERFERED WITH BECAUSE OF YOUR PROTECTED CATEGORY, THAT AGAIN WOULD BE A -- RISE TO THE OCCASION OF A FEDERAL OFFENSE.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009 IS OBVIOUSLY AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF HATE CRIMES.

AS MR. SHEPARD TOLD YOU, THIS WAS PASSED IN 2009.

IT DID A NUMBER OF REMARKABLE THINGS.

MOST IMPORTANTLY PRIOR TO THE SHEPARD/BYRD ACT THERE WERE HATE CRIMES PROTECTIONS FOR RACE AND ETHNICITY AND RELIGION.

THE SHEPARD/BYRD ACT OPENED THE SCOPE OF PROTECTED CATEGORIES TO INCLUDE GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND PERCEIVED SEXUAL IDENTITY.

IF WE LOOK AT THAT TIME STATUTE PRETTY CAREFULLY, AND I WANT TO SPEND SOME TIME ON THIS SO THAT I HAVE SOME CLARITY IN TERMS OF OUR PRESENTATION HERE, THESE ARE THE ELEMENTS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PROSECUTE THIS KIND OF CASE.

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IT IS THE WILLFUL CAUSING OF BODILY INJURY OR ATTEMPTING TO DO SO USING FIRE, FIREARM OR OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON WHEN THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED BECAUSE OF THE ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR DISABILITY OF ANY PERSON.

AND THAT IS PUNISHABLE BY TEN YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON.

THERE AGAIN, WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE UNDER THE SHEPARD/BYRD ACT IS THERE SHOULD BE, FOR PURPOSES OF PROSECUTION, AN ELEMENT OF AN ASSAULT OR SOME SORT OF HARMFUL TOUCHING.

IN ADDITION TO HAVING SOME SORT OF HARMFUL TOUCHING, THERE HAS TO BE EVIDENCE THAT THIS CRIME WAS COMMITTED BECAUSE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN A PROTECTED CATEGORY.

AND LET ME OFFER THIS TO YOU.

WHAT WOULD BE SOME OF THE KINDS OF EVIDENCE THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE A CLAIM THAT THIS WAS DONE -- THIS ASSAULT WAS DONE, THIS ARSON WAS DONE FOR REASONS RELATED TO A PROTECTED ACTIVITY?

ANYONE.

>> [OFF MIC] .

>> EXACTLY, RACIAL EPITHETS, SLURS, THAT KIND OF EVIDENCE.

WHEN SOMEONE ACTUALLY EXTERNALIZES THEIR MOTIVATION THROUGH SOME SORT OF WORD OR THROUGH SOME SORT OF ACTION LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, SPRAY PAINTING SWASTIKAS, THAT WOULD BE AN EXTERNALIZATION AND EVIDENCE THAT COULD BE USED TO PROVE THAT SOMEONE WAS RACIALLY BIASED OR BIASED BECAUSE OF YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR YOUR AGENDA OR YOUR RELIGION, ANY OF THOSE PROTECTED CATEGORIES.

AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE AT THE END OF THIS PRESENTATION I WANTED TO GIVE SOME POINTERS ABOUT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME.

I'M GOING TO MOVE VERY, VERY QUICKLY RIGHT NOW THROUGH ALL TO HAVE VARIOUS FEDERAL LAWS THAT PROTECT HATE CRIMES INTO THE REALM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PARTICULARLY SEXUAL TRAFFICKING.

THE RUBRIC OF HATE CRIMES IS A VERY BROAD RUBRIC.

THERE'S A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS THAT GET PROSECUTED AS HATE CRIMES.

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THERE'S AN EVEN BROADER ARRAY OF LITIGATION INVOLVING CIVIL RIGHTS.

I WANTED TO MENTION TO YOU SEXUAL TRAFFICKING.

RIGHT NOW IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE WE ARE ENGAGED IN ONE OF THE LARGEST HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES IN OUR NATION.

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 30 DEFENDANTS, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 200 TO 300 WITNESSES, OVER 600 PIECES OF EVIDENCE.

WE PLAN TO BE IN TRIAL FOR TWO TO THREE MONTHS.

WE ANTICIPATE BEING IN TRIAL AT THE END OF MARCH.

THE CASE INVOLVES THE SEXUAL TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG GIRLS.

NOW, LEAST ANY OF YOU WALK AWAY FROM THIS FORUM BELIEVING THAT SEXUAL TRAFFICKING IS SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN ON SKID ROW OR SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN IN THE DARK, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT A NUMBER OF THESE CASES INVOLVE SUBURBS IN WHICH THESE SUBURBAN TEENS, MALE AND FEMALE, WHO FOR WHATEVER REASON MAY FEEL ALIENATED, EITHER SOCIOECONOMICALLY, RACIALLY OR PERHAPS SOME OTHER REASON RELATED TO A PROTECTED CATEGORY BUT NONETHELESS VERY LONELY AND ALSO VERY VULNERABLE.

THOSE PEOPLE ARE EXPLOITED BY PEOPLE MORE THAN WILLING TO SEXUALLY TRAFFIC THEM.

I LEAVE YOU WITH THIS BECAUSE IT'S VERY IMPORTANT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ARE NOT JUST SOME SEGMENT OF SOCIETY THAT YOU'RE UNFAMILIAR WITH.

THIS IS THE KIND OF CONDUCT THAT MAY BE HAPPENING RIGHT UNDER YOUR OWN NOSE.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, I THINK, FOR ALL OF US TO REALIZE THAT THE SAFETY OF EVERY MEMBER IN OUR COMMUNITY BELONGS TO ALL OF US, PARTICULARLY OUR CHILDREN.

HAVING SAID THAT, I AM GOING TO SPEED THROUGH THE REST OF THIS PRESENTATION TO GET TO SOME ACTUAL PRACTICAL TIPS.

FOR ALL OF US.

AS I STATED -- OR AS I COULD SAY IN ABOUT A HALF AN HOUR, THERE ARE ABOUT 20 DIFFERENT THAT I CAN GO THROUGH THAT PROTECT YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO DISCRIMINATION.

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DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING, DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING.

ALL OF THOSE LAWS ARE IN PLACE AND YOU HAVE A DISTRICT OR A U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THAT IS COMMITTED TO AGGRESSIVELY ENGAGING THESE KINDS OF CRIMES.

HOWEVER, PART OF THE MISSION OF OUR FORUM TODAY IS TO ENGAGE YOU IN A PARTNERSHIP.

IF YOU DON'T MAKE US AWARE OF THESE CRIMES, WE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THESE CRIMES.

SO WHAT I WANT IS TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHAT ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY SOME SORT OF HATE CRIME.

THE FIRST OF THESE IS RELATIVELY OBVIOUS, AND THAT IS TO CALL THE POLICE.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF SOME SORT OF HATE CRIME, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE POLICE AND YOU SHOULD CONTACT THEM RIGHT AWAY.

IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD WRITE DOWN AS MUCH DETAIL ABOUT THE CRIME AS POSSIBLE.

AS I STATED TO YOU EARLIER, THE ELEMENT OF HATE CRIMES THAT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT FOR PURPOSES OF PROSECUTION IS PROVING THAT SOMEONE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR PROTECTED CATEGORY.

IT IS THE RARE INSTANCE THAT SOMEONE WILL COME UP TO YOU WITH A GUN AND SAY OKAY, WHITE MAN, THIS IS THE LAST THE YOU ARE GOING TO SEE AND I AM GOING TO KILL YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE BOTH WHITE AND ALSO MALE.

HOWEVER, IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE AND YOU WRITE DOWN THE CRIME IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE.

THAT YOU TAKE AS MUCH OF A DESCRIPTION AS POSSIBLE OF THE PERPETRATOR, THEIR SIZE, THEIR HEIGHT, THEIR WEIGHT, AS MUCH OF A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN, AND ANY DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS.

IT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHRONICLE EVERYTHING THAT WAS SAID AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS DONE.

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YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED AT HOW MUCH THESE DETAILS BECOME VERY IMPORTANT TO US DURING THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION AND ALSO DURING THE COURSE OF THE LITIGATION.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME, AGAIN, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU PRESERVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE.

ANY VIDEOS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN WITH YOUR PHONE.

ANY PHOTOGRAPHS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN WITH YOUR PHONE.

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY KIND OF INTERACTION WITH SOMEONE IN THE PUBLIC AND THAT YOU'VE BEEN DEPRIVED OF SOMETHING OR THAT YOU'VE BEEN ASSAULTED IN SOME WAY AND YOU BELIEVE THAT THAT IS RELATED TO YOUR PROTECTED CATEGORY, TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CONTROL THIS, TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN PHOTOGRAPH THIS, THAT IS INVALUABLE EVIDENCE THAT CAN LATER BE USED IN THE PROSECUTION.

I ALSO ENCOURAGE YOU TO WRITE DOWN THE RESPONDING OFFICER'S NAME AND BADGE NUMBER.

TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS MIGHT GET LOST IN AN ARRAY OF VERY, VERY BUSY ACTIVITY, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN TRACK, IT IS ALSO SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN FOLLOW-UP ON.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE CRIME THAT YOU ASK THAT A POLICE REPORT BE DONE AND THAT YOU GET THE NUMBER, THE CASE NUMBER FOR THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT AS WELL AS THE BADGE AND NAME OF THE POLICE OFFICER WHO RESPONDS.

AGAIN, YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE OFFICER COMPLETES A REPORT.

GET A COPY OF THE REPORT AND/OR INCIDENT NUMBER.

TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN, GET A COPY OF THE REPORT.

YOU MAY BE IN AN AREA WHERE THERE ISN'T A XEROX COPIER, BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN GET A COPY OF THE REPORT, PLEASE DO GET A COPY OF THE REPORT.

EVEN IF THAT MEANS THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW-UP AT THE POLICE PRECINCT.

WHEN YOU ARE FILLING OUT A REPORT WITH A POLICE OFFICER, MAKE SURE THAT YOU TELL THAT POLICE OFFICER THAT YOU ARE REPORTING THIS AS A HATE CRIME.

THERE MAY BE SOMEONE OR SOMEONES WHO MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO HATE CRIMES OR DISCRIMINATION AND FOR THEM IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE THAT THIS

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POSSIBLY COULD BE MOTIVATED BY THE FACT THAT YOU'RE JEWISH OR THE FACT THAT YOU PRACTICE ISLAM OR THE FACT THAT YOU MAY BE NATIVE AMERICAN OR THE FACT THAT YOU MAY BE HOMOSEXUAL.

SO IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU TELL THAT OFFICER THAT I AM REPORTING THIS AS A HATE CRIME.

I WOULD LIKE THAT NOTED IN THE REPORT.

AND THAT ALSO HELPS THE OFFICER FUNNEL THIS PARTICULAR CRIME TO THE RIGHT AREAS WHERE IT CAN BE INVESTIGATED AS A HATE CRIME.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ASSISTED PROPERLY, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT YOU FOLLOW-UP.

AND THIS MAY INVOLVE A CALL TO THE PRECINCT AS -- TO FOLLOW-UP ON THIS PARTICULAR REPORT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU.

IN ADDITION, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME SORT OF HATE CRIME TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN AND TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU ARE COMFORTABLE THAT YOU REACH OUT PERHAPS TO A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD REPRESENT YOUR INTERESTS.

GIVEN THE WEB THERE ARE TONS OF GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS OUT THERE WHO WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO ASSIST YOU IN REDRESSING A PROBLEM THAT YOU MAY HAVE HAD WITH RESPECT TO A HATE CRIME, TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW-UP ON THIS CRIME AGGRESSIVELY TO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS BEING PROSECUTED IT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT HURT YOU TO HAVE HELP FROM A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT IS ORGANIZED AND MAY HAVE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALREADY.

AGAIN, THERE AN ABUNDANCE OF INFORMATION ON THE WEB, CONTACT NUMBERS YOU CAN CALL, 1-800 NUMBERS THAT YOU CAN CALL, FOUNDATIONS THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

I AM GOING TO CONCLUDE THIS, UNLESS SOMEONE HAS SOME QUESTIONS.

YES, SIR -- YES, MA'AM, I'M SORRY.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME UP TO ME DURING THE BREAK, WHAT I'LL DO IS I'M SURE CAROLINE NEEDS ONE MORE THING TO DO, IF YOU COME UP TO ME DURING THE BREAK AND GIVE ME A BUSINESS CARD I'LL MAKE SURE THAT I GET THIS EITHER EMAILED OR MAILED TO YOU.

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ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

IT'S A GOOD THING WHEN WE CAN ACTUALLY INTERACT WITH THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE SERVE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> [OFF MIC].

WANT TO TALK WITH HER, IF SHE CAN DO THAT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP HER CONTINUING EXPERTISE AS PART OF THIS EVENT TODAY.

RIGHT NOW WE'D LIKE TO BRING UP TO THE PODIUM TWO ADDITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

THIS IS THE TIME FOR YOU ALL TO MEET AND UNDERSTAND AND KNOW SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING ON OUR BEHALF.

SPECIAL AGENT MARY BETH WRIGHT AND SPECIAL AGENT STEVE FOGARTY.

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU ONE OF THE THINGS I HEARD IN THE LAST WEEK AND A HALF THAT HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY INSPIRING ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS EVENT IS THAT THE SHARPNESS OF THE F.B.I.

AND I HEARD THAT FROM MARY BETH WHEN SHE SAID TO ME CAROLINE HAD YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HAVING JUDY AND DENNIS SHEPARD COME TO THE FORUM AND THIS WAS PROBABLY THE THURSDAY BEFORE MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY WEEKEND AND I SAID NO.

SHE SAID WELL, I HAVE A FRIEND AND MAYBE WE CAN WORK THAT OUT.

AND SO DURING THE COURSE OF THAT WEEKEND SHE WROTE THE SHEPARDS, I WROTE THE SHEPARDS, SHE WROTE HER FRIEND FIRST AND WE GOT AN INTRODUCTION AND THAT WE BOTH GOT DENNIS TO COME HERE THIS WEEKEND.

WE OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR THE F.B.I. FOR THEIR DILIGENCE IN WORKING ON OUR BEHALF AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTNER WITH ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

[ APPLAUSE ]

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>> HI.

GOOD MORNING.

FIRST OF ALL I WANT TO THANK CAROLINE BLACKWELL FOR INVITING THE F.B.I. TO PRESENT TODAY.

WE ARE VERY, VERY HONORED TO BE HERE.

I'M MARY BETH WRIGHT SPECIAL AGENT WITH THE F.B.I.

I WORK ON THE WHITE COLLARS CRIME AND INVESTIGATE MAINLY CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION.

I'M GOING TO DISCUSS THE F.B.I. PROGRAMS AS WELL AS CASE STUDIES.

VIOLATIONS IN MORE THAN 200 CATEGORIES OF FEDERAL LAW.

THEY GENERALLY FALL UNDER OUR THREE NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITIES AND OUR FIVE CRIMINAL PRIORITIES.

AS YOU GUY CANS SEE, THE FIFTH PRIORITY OF THE F.B.I. IS CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION THAT WE INVESTIGATION.

THE MISSION OF THE F.B.I. CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM IS TO ENFORCE CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES AND ENSURE THAT PROTECTED RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE ARE NOT BROACHED.

IT IS BROKEN DOWN INTO FOUR SUB PROGRAMS.

HATE CRIMES, COLOR OF LAW, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND THE STATES ACT.

THE F.B.I.'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY WITH THE SUB PROGRAMS IS HATE CRIMES.

AND THE REASON FOR THAT IS BECAUSE HATE CRIMES HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE GROUPS THAT PREACH HATRED AND INTOLERANCE CONCEIVED TERRORISM IN OUR COUNTRY.

IN THE ACT CAN HATE CRIMES BE COMMITTED WITH WORDS ALONE?

THE USE OF BIGOTED AND PREJUDICE LANGUAGE DOES NOT IN ITSELF VIOLATE HATE CRIMES.

THIS TYPE OF OFFENSE IS FREQUENTLY CLASSIFIED AS A BIAS INCIDENT.

HOWEVER, WHEN WORDS THREATEN VIOLENCE OR WHEN VIOLENCE MOTIVATED GRAFFITI DAMAGES OR DESTROYS PROPERTY, HATE CRIME LAWS MAY APPLY.

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THE F.B.I.'S JURISDICTION PERTAINS TO HATE CRIMES IS PRIMARILY PREDICATED ON FIVE FEDERAL STATUTES.

THESE REQUIRE THREE PARTS, THE USE OF FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE OR CONSPIRACY TO USE OR THREATEN FORCE.

SECOND, THE TARGETING OF A VICTIM BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, AND IN THE CASE OF HOUSING, DISABILITY, GENDER, FAMILIAL STATUS.

AND FINALLY, ADDITIONAL MOTIVE TO INJURE, INTIMIDATE OR INTERFERE OR SOME SPECIFIC FEDERALLY PROTECTED ACTIVITY OR RIGHT.

THERE WE GO.

OKAY.

THIS NEXT SLIDE IS THE RESULTS OF THE 2010 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING HATE CRIMES STATISTICS PROGRAM.

THE RESULTS RELATE APPROXIMATELY 92% OF THE NATION'S POPULATION.

OF THAT ABOUT APPROXIMATELY 15,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUBMITTED THEIR DATA AND OF THAT APPROXIMATELY 2,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REPORTED THAT A HATE CRIME INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED IN THEIR JURISDICTION.

THIS MADE UP APPROXIMATELY 6,624 SINGLE BIAS INCIDENTS, WHICH SHOWED 47% WERE RACE MOTIVATED, 20% WAS RELIGION, 3% SEXUAL ORIENTATION 12.8 NATIONAL ORIGIN AND .6 DISABILITY.

HAS ANYONE EVER BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED IN THE UNITED STATES FOR SENDING RACIST THREATS VIA EMAIL?

THE ANSWER IS YES.

IN 1998 RICHARD WAS THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL TO BE CONVICTED OF A FEDERAL ELECTRONIC MAIL HATE CRIME.

HE WAS A FORMER STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

HE WAS CONVICTED OF VIOLATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF 59 ASIAN -- I'M SORRY, 59 MOSTLY ASIAN STUDENTS BY SENDING THREATENING EMAIL MESSAGES SIGNED BY ASIAN HATER.

HIS MESSAGES STATED, QUOTE, I PERSONALLY WILL MAKE IT MY LIFE WORK TO FIND AND KILL EVERY ONE OF YOU PERSONALLY, OKAY?

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THAT'S HOW DETERMINED I AM.

DO YOU HEAR ME?

HE THREATENED TO KILL THEM IF THEY DID NOT WITHDRAW THEIR ENROLLMENT FROM SCHOOL.

HE WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON.

ON JANUARY 17, 2011, AS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED IN DOWNTOWN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY PARADE, KEVIN HARPIN PLACED HIS BACKPACK BOMB ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE OF WASHINGTON STREET AND MAIN AVENUE.

CITY WORKERS DISCOVERED THE SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE BEFORE THE MARCH STARTED.

THE SPOKANE POLICE AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE BOMB SQUAD WERE CALLED IN AND DISABLED THE BOMB.

THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR TIP THAT LED TO THE CAPTURE OF HARPIN.

RATHER IT WAS EVIDENCE FROM THE BOMB ITSELF.

THE DETONATOR WAS A REMOTE PURCHASED OVER THE INTERNET, THE SHRAPNEL WHICH WOULD HAVE MAIMED VICTIMS WAS LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS PURCHASED FROM WAL-MART.

HIS D.N.A. WAS ON THE HANDLE OF THE BACK PACK THAT HELD THE BOMB.

AFTER THE ARREST OFFICERS FOUND DELETED PHOTOS THAT INCLUDED PICTURES OF HARPIN AT THE PARADE AND PICTURES OF YOUNG BLACK CHILDREN AT THE MARCH.

IF YOU PLACED IT BECAUSE OF THEIR COLOR, RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AND HE REPLIED YET.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011, HE PLED GUILTY TO THE USE OF WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND A HATE CRIMES ACT.

HE WAS SENTENCED ON DECEMBER 20, 2011 TO 32 YEARS.

JAMES BYRD JR. WAS A BLACK MALE MURDERED BY THREE YOUNG MEN WHITE SUPREMACISTS DURING A RACIALLY MOTIVATED CRIME IN JASPER, TEXAS, ON JUNE 7, 1998.

SHAWN BERRY, LAWRENCE BREWER AND JOHN KING DRAGGED BYRD BEHIND A PICKUP ALONG AN ASPHALT ROAD.

HE WAS PULLED ALONG THREE MILES AS THE TRUCK SWERVED FROM SIDE TO SIDE.

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BYRD REMAINED CONSCIOUS THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE ORDEAL WAS KILLED WHEN HIS BODY HIT THE EDGE OF A CULVERT SEVERING HIS RIGHT ARM.

THE MURDERS DROVE ON ANOTHER MILE BEFORE DUMPING HIS BODY IN FRONT OF AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY IN JASPER.

THEY WERE TRIED AND CONVICTED OF CAPITAL MURDER.

BERRY WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

BREWER LATER CLAIM THAT BYRD'S THROAT HAD BEEN SLASHED BY BERRY BEFORE HE WAS DRAGGED.

HOWEVER, FORENSIC EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT BYRD HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO KEEP HIS HEAD UP WHILE BEING DRAGGED AND AN AUTOPSY SUGGESTED THAT BYRD WAS ALIVE DURING MUCH OF THE DRAGGING.

SHAWN BERRY STATED, WE WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN.

BREWER WAS EXECUTED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 BY LETHAL INJECTION.

THE DAY BEFORE HIS EXECUTION HE TOLD THE HOUSTON NEWS REPORTER, QUOTE, AS FAR AS ANY REGRETS, NO, I HAVE NO REGRETS.

NO, I'D DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

KING CURRENTLY REMAINS ON TEXAS DEATH ROW WHILE APPEALS ARE PENDING.

BYRD'S LYNCHING BY DRAGGING GAVE PASSAGE OF THE TEXAS HATE CRIMES LAW.

IT LED TO THE FEDERAL HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNED THE BILL INTO LAW ON OCTOBER 28, 2009.

THE NEW LAW EXPANDS PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THE 1969 UNITED STATES FEDERAL HATE CRIME LAW TO INCLUDE CRIMES MOTIVATED BY A VICTIM'S ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED GENDER, SEXUAL ORIGIN DAYS, GENDER IDENTITY OR DISABILITY.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING CATEGORIES OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, AND NATIONAL ORIGIN.

OKAY.

FINALLY, ON JANUARY 19, 2012 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN HOUSTON INDICTED FOUR WHITE SUSPECTS ON HATE CRIME ON RACIALLY MOTIVATED ASSAULT OF A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN LAST SUMMER.

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THE FOUR SUSPECTS SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT, EACH WAS CHARGED WITH MISDEMEANOR ASSAULT IN THE BEATING.

EACH FACED ONE ADDITIONAL COUNT OF VIOLATING THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME NATIONALLY THAT PROSECUTORS HAVE BROUGHT CHARGES UNDER THE ACT.

OKAY.

MY PARTNER IS GOING TO SPEAK.

>> GOOD MORNING.

EVERYBODY HEAR ME?

[OFF MIC]

CAN YOU HEAR ME OUT THERE?

>> CAN YOU USE THAT MIC?

>> OH.

I TELL MY WIFE I LIKE TO WALK AND SHE SAYS THE REASON YOU DO THAT IS BECAUSE A MOVING TARGET'S HARDER TO HIT.

JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT.

WE'LL GET INTO A QUICK CASE STUDY THAT'S LOCAL.

KIND OF GIVE YOU SOME LOCAL, YOU KNOW, FLAVOR, SO TO SPEAK FOR WHAT'S GOING ON.

I THINK THAT WHAT WE HAVE -- YEARS AGO WE HAD THINGS THAT WERE FOSTERED, I THINK MR. SHEPARD ALLUDED TO IT, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ATTITUDES.

AND I LIKE TO THINK THAT HE'S RIGHT, THOSE THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

TALK ABOUT LADY GAGA AND THINGS I HAVEN'T WATCHED YET, BUT I WILL TELL YOU ONE THING [ INAUDIBLE ] 22 YEARS.

NINE YEARS AS A POLICEMAN AND DETECTIVE AND 13 1/2 YEARS AS AN F.B.I. AGENT, I HAVE HAD THE LUXURY OF AN EDUCATION THAT PUTS ME IN PUBLIC HOUSING ONE DAY [ INAUDIBLE ] TALK TO GO PEOPLE OF ALL RACES, COLORS, ETHNICITIES, EVERY BACKGROUND YOU CAN IMAGINE.

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AND IT HAS BEEN A VALUABLE LESSON FOR ME.

LET ME JUST GIVE YOU A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES.

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SAUDI ARABIA YEARS AGO.

WHAT HAPPENED IN SAUDI ARABIA IS NATIONAL POLICE, THE [ INAUDIBLE ] THEY CALL IT.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> [OFF MIC].

>> OKAY.

STATIONARY TARGET.

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THEM AND WE WERE OUT ONE NIGHT AND SAUDI ARABIA TENDS TO GET A LITTLE HOT.

SO WE WERE WORKING ABOUT 10:00 AT NIGHT AND THEY STOPPED TO BREAK.

AND THEY'RE GOING TO SIT DOWN AND ONE OF THE AGENTS COMES OVER TO ME AND SAID THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE A BREAK, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A SNACK.

GREAT, IT'S 10:00 AT NIGHT BUT IT'S 95, 100 DEGREES OUTSIDE.

SO WE SIT DOWN, WE SIT DOWN IN THE COURTYARD AND WHAT DO WE HAVE?

HOT TEA.

AND WE GOT THE SIT DOWN AND TALK.

AND EVEN WHEN WE WORK WITH PEOPLE, WHEN YOU GET TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH PEOPLE FROM A DIFFERENT CULTURE A DIFFERENT RELIGION, IT'S -- IT OPENS YOUR EYES TO HOW THEY THINK.

AND WHAT THEIR BACKGROUND IS.

AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO THEM.

I WAS -- I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO GO TO PUERTO RICO.

WHEN I WAS IN PUERTO RICO I'D EAT WITH ONE OF THE PUERTO RICAN OFFICERS AND I'D GO INTO THE RESTAURANT AND HE WOULD SHAKE HIS FINGER AND GO

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SO I SAID IN SPANISH.

WELL, [ INAUDIBLE ] OR CHICKEN, I NEEDED TO FIGURE OUT A LITTLE MORE OF THE LANGUAGE.

ONE THING I WILL TELL YOU A PUERTO RICANS, WHEN YOU TRY TO SPEAK SPANISH, EVEN THE BAD BROKEN SPANISH I SPOKE, THEY WERE SO WELCOMING BECAUSE I WAS MAKING AN ATTEMPT HERE IN PUERTO RICO TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.

NOT EVERYBODY IS AS OPEN-MINDED OR AS EDUCATED AND FORTUNATELY THAT BRINGS LAW ENFORCEMENT INTO THE PICTURE.

WE'LL TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT.

[OFF MIC]

2008 --

[OFF MIC]

RECEIVED A PHONE CALL THAT THERE WAS A STRUCTURAL FIRE LOCATED AT THE ISLAMIC CENTER ON SOUTH MAIN STREET.

NOW, THERE WERE NO INJURIES OR DEATHS.

THE POLICE AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED.

AND YOU CAN SEE THE FIRE WAS PRETTY SIGNIFICANT.

THERE WAS A NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT IS CAME TO THE TABLE, THE COLUMBIA POLICE, BOMB AND ARSON, F.B.I. AND ATF AND THIS IS THE AFTERMATH OF THE FIRE.

NOW, WHEN BLANCHE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE THINGS WE LOOK FOR, WHEN WE'RE INVESTIGATING THESE CRIMES AND WE COME TO BEAR WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?

WE HAVE A CRIME SCENE TO WORK.

STATE BOMB AND ARSON GOES IN AND THEY DO A GREAT JOB.

THEY FIND THE REMNANTS OF A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL WHICH WOULD QUALIFY AS A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE.

THEY CONTINUE TO LOOK AROUND AND WHAT DO WE SEE IN WE SEE THE SWASTIKA.

ADDITIONALLY, I WANT TO MAKE SURE I HAVE THIS RIGHT, YOU CAN SEE THE GLASSES FOUND HERE IN THE BACK.

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ONCE THE CRIME SCENE WAS WORKED AND THE.

[OFF MIC]

AND TALK TO GO THE PUBLIC AND GETTING THE PUBLIC'S HELP.

A NEIGHBORHOOD CANVAS AT A CONVENIENCE STORE AFTER PULLING THE REGISTER RECEIPTS SHOWED A PURCHASE FOR \$5 OF GASOLINE ABOUT 4:00 IN THE MORNING.

AS A RESULT OF TALKING TO THE PATROLMAN AND AS A 20-YEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT VETERAN, LET'S MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD ON THE STREET, HE HAD OBSERVED SOME INDIVIDUALS OUT IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS AND HE KNEW THEM AND HE KNEW THEIR TRUCK.

AND THEY HAD BEEN BY THE ISLAMIC CENTER -- THE OFFICER HAD, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM.

HE HAD SEEN THEM EARLIER.

SO BASED ON THE FOOTAGE FROM THE SURVEILLANCE VIDEO, THEY TOOK THE OFFICER BACK THERE AND HE SAID THAT'S THE GUY THIS THE TRUCK RIGHT THERE AND HERE'S HIS NAME.

YOU RUN A REGISTRATION TRUCK, SURE ENOUGH HE HAS A TRUCK REGISTERED TO HIM.

WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?

YOU GO TO THE HOUSE.

WHEN YOU GROW TO THE HOUSE ALL YOU CAN SEE IS THE SPRAY PAINT LOCATED IN THE TRUCK, SPRAY PAINT, GREAT EVIDENCE.

CASH REGISTER RECEIPT FOR A PURCHASE OF GASOLINE.

ADDITIONALLY THERE WAS A BURGLARY AND THERE WAS A STEREO THAT WAS TAKEN.

THAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED BECAUSE IT WAS DESCRIBED BY THE PEOPLE AT THE ISLAMIC CENTER AND IT WAS DESCRIBED AND LINKED TO THE SUSPECT EVENTUALLY.

AND THERE WERE SOME SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES.

YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK, I'M GOING TO READ THEM FOR YOU.

THERE'S SOME SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES BROUGHT TO BEAR COURTESY OF A SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION BY THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HERE IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

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SO I TOOK LITTLE BIT OF TIME AND I DON'T WANT TO GET YANKED OFF TO THE SIDE IN A MINUTE BECAUSE I'M NOT MOVING BUT I CAN TELL YOU I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG.

I CAME UP A NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION AFTER WORKING FOUR YEARS CRIMES ON THE RESERVATION.

THE STORY THAT WAS ALLUDED EARLIER BY THE GENTLEMAN THAT DID THE INITIAL INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE NAVAJO MAN IN FARMINGTON, HE SUFFERED FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME.

HE HAD GOTTEN LOST, HE WAS TRYING TO GET BACK HOME, HE WENT TO THE McDONALD'S.

HE WAS BEFRIENDED, SO TO SPEAK, AFTER HE WAS BEFRIENDED BY THESE THREE GUYS THERE, THEY TAKE HIM BACK TO THE APARTMENT.

I APOLOGIZE I DON'T HAVE THE PHOTOGRAPHS BUT BASICALLY THEY TOOK HIM BACK THERE AND THEY -- THEY SHAVED A SWASTIKA IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD DOWN TO THE SKIN.

THEY GOT A CELL PHONE AND WERE TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE WAS COMPLICIT IN WHAT THEY WERE DOING, THEY WROTE WHITE POWER ON HIS BACK.

WHEN THEY TOOK THE COAT HANGER AFTER PUTTING A TOWEL IN HIS LIFE, HEATED IT ON THE STOVE AND BRANDED HIS ARM.

THEY'VE BEEN PROSECUTED SUCCESSFULLY FEDERALLY UNDER THESE HATE CRIME LAWS.

SO JUST A COUPLE OF STORIES OUT THERE.

I COULD GO ON FOR DAYS, BUT OUR TIME IS RUNNING SHORT.

WE'RE COMMITTED TO WORK WITH PARTNERS WITH METRO AND EVERYONE ELSE TO DO WHAT WE CAN.

AND WE JUST ASK THE PUBLIC TO DO WHAT YOU CAN DO TO BE GOOD WITNESSES AND CALL US IF YOU SEE SOMETHING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> STEVE, I SO UNDERSTAND NOT WANTING TO STAND BEHIND A PODIUM.

BEFORE WE GO TO LUNCH WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A FEW MORE MINUTES WITH ONE OF OUR T.B.I. INVESTIGATORS, DALE ARMOUR.

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DALE ARMOUR HAS BEEN A LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR, OH GOSH, I COULDN'T EVEN COUNT UP THE NUMBER OF YEARS.

HE'S ANOTHER VETERAN AGENT.

DALE IS A SPECIAL AGENT WITH THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND IS THE ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE.

I'D APPRECIATE YOU WELCOMING DALE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> I REALIZE THIS IS GOING TO BE JUST BEFORE LUNCH AND I'VE GOT JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO INTRODUCE MY AGENCY TO YOU AND WHAT OUR RESPONSE TO HATE CRIMES WOULD BE.

I THINK I NEED TO GO BACK INTO HISTORY A LITTLE BIT.

MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND HOW OUR AUTHORITY IS LISTED.

WE'RE NOT OUT IN THE PUBLIC GENERALLY LIKE YOUR NORMAL POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE THEY'RE VERY POPULAR OR VERY VISUAL.

BACK ABOUT 60 YEARS AGO UP IN RURAL EAST TENNESSEE THERE WAS A VIOLENT HOMICIDE, A LOCAL SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RESPONDS, THEY WERE VERY ILL PREPARED TO HANDLE THE INVESTIGATION.

THEY STEPPED ON EVIDENCE, THEY MESSED UP EVIDENCE, THE CASE WENT DORMANT.

MR. JOHN JONES AT THAT TIME WAS THE -- EXCUSE ME, HE WAS THE EDITOR OF THE GREENVILLE PAPER AND HE SAW A NEED 60 YEARS AGO THAT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDED HELP.

IF YOU'RE FROM NASHVILLE, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT CAN DO ANYTHING OUT THERE THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

BUT YOU TAKE A STEP BACK AND GO INTO A RURAL COUNTY WHERE THEY DON'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF TRAINING, EXPERIENCE, THEY MAY NOT EVER SEE A HOMICIDE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS.

THAT WAS THE REASON THAT MR. JONES WITH THE TENNESSEE PRESS ASSOCIATION MADE THE CRY THAT WE NEEDED A STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION THAT COULD ASSIST LOCAL AGENCIES TO DO THE -- TO DO THEIR INVESTIGATIONS WHEN NEEDED AND WHEN CALLED UPON.

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I BELIEVE 1951 THE LEGISLATURE HEARD THAT CRY FROM THE TENNESSEE PRESS ASSOCIATION, WE WERE CREATED AT THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION AND WE WERE ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, BASICALLY AS A PLAIN CLOTHES DIVISION.

AT THAT TIME WE WORKED EXACTLY LIKE WE WERE TOLD AND I BELIEVE IN THE ORIGINAL TIME WITH T.B.I., I BELIEVE THERE WAS ONLY ABOUT SIX AGENTS WORKING 95 COUNTIES.

WE HAVE NOW EXPANDED THAT WITH THE LABORATORY, I THINK WE'RE ABOUT 225 AGENTS STATEWIDE, 75 OF THOSE ARE ASSIGNED TO THE FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIT OR LABORATORIES ACROSS THE STATE.

THE OTHER -- REST TO HAVE AGENTS ARE SCATTERED OUT AMONGST THE COUNTIES.

THEY LIVE IN THE COUNTIES WHERE THEY WORK.

THEY GO TO CHURCH THERE, SCHOOL, CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL, BALL GAMES, THEY ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY AS AGENTS.

IN THE EARLY '80S THERE WAS A CALL THAT BECAUSE OF SOME -- OUR RESPONSIBILITIES HAD GROWN, THAT THEY NEEDED TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND THAT'S HOW THE T.B.I. WAS CREATED, AS YOU KNOW IT TODAY.

THE LEGISLATURE SAW FIT THAT WE NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE POLITICAL AUSPICES I GUESS OF STATE AGENCY AND WHEN THEY CREATED US THEY RECHRISTENED US THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

GAVE US THE INDEPENDENCE TO DO THE INVESTIGATIONS THAT NEEDS TO BE.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS STILL TO THE CITIZENS.

WHEN IT COMES TO HATE CRIME INVESTIGATIONS THE CLOSEST THAT I CAN TELL YOU UNDER TENNESSEE LAW THAT WE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN WOULD BE A CIVIL RIGHTS INTIMIDATION ACT WHICH IS A FELONY AND ALSO A MISDEMEANOR PORTION TO IT.

BECAUSE OF THE T.B.I. AND WHAT OUR STATE LAW READS, WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO WORK A BIAS CASE BASICALLY ON WHAT WAS ACTUALLY DONE.

IF THERE WAS A HOMICIDE THERE, WE'RE GOING TO WORK IT UNDER THE STATUTE FOR HOMICIDE.

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IF IT'S AN ARSON, VANDALISM ASSAULT, THAT'S HOW WE'RE GOING TO WORK IT, THE MOTIVATOR WOULD BE WHATEVER -- LIKE WAS SAID TODAY, MS. BLANCHE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCES HERE.

ONCE WE GET INVOLVED IN IT, THE THING THAT YOU NEED TO TAKE AWAY FROM HERE, THE T.B.I. CANNOT INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO A HATE CRIME WITHOUT BEING INVITED IN BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

OUR AUTHORITY UNDER STATE LAW IS THAT WE HAVE AUTHORITY TO WORK POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

WE'VE GOT A POLITICIAN OUT HERE THAT NEEDS TO BE INVESTIGATED, IF WE HAVE FUGITIVES, DOMESTIC TERRORISM, GANG AFFILIATION, SEVERAL WHITE COLLAR CRIME CASES, MEDICAID FRAUD, A HANDFUL OF OTHERS, WE CAN WALK OUT OF AN INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION WITHOUT CONTACTING ANYONE.

IF THERE'S A HOMICIDE LAYING OUT ON THE FRONT STEPS OF THE TENNESSEE BREWER ROW OF INVESTIGATION THIS MORNING WE HAVE TO BE INVITED IN TO WORK IT.

WHAT THAT MEANS EITHER A PHONE CALL MADE TO THE STATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL CALL AND INVITE US INTO AN INVESTIGATION.

ONCE WE ARE INVITED INTO THAT INVESTIGATION WE HAVE THE FULL FORCE AND AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY TO DO WHAT WE NEED TO DO.

WE HAVE THE FORENSICS UNIT THAT WILL BE RESPONDING AND I WILL TELL YOU, I'VE WATCHED SOME "CSI" SHOWS AND GONE TO OUR LABORATORY AND THEY'RE -- THEY'RE TWO SEPARATE ANIMALS, GUYS.

THEY DON'T DO THE SAME THING.

IT'S JUST NOT AS POPULAR ON TELEVISION IN OUR OFFICE BUT WE WOULD BRING FORTH WHATEVER RESOURCES WE HAVE, WHETHER THAT IS TO A LOCAL AGENCY OUT HERE OR TO OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS.

YOU KNOW, I WAS LISTENING -- I WROTE MY BIO FOR MS. CAROLINE I GOT THINKING ABOUT IT.

IN 2005 WAS GIVEN THE SPECIAL AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARD.

PART OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY WAS BECAUSE THE JOB THAT I HAD AT THE TIME, I ENDED 1,200 FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

BUT I DIDN'T DO THAT BY MYSELF.

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YOU DO THAT BY REACHING OUT TO OTHER PEOPLE, OTHER AGENCIES, OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR DEPARTMENT AND THAT'S HOW YOU CREATE THAT NETWORK TO GET THE JOB DONE.

WE'RE NOT AN ISLAND.

WE NEED YOU.

WE NEED THE PRESS.

WE NEED OUR FELLOW AGENTS, OUR FELLOW AGENCIES, OUR OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

WHETHER THAT IS A DEPUTY SHERIFF WORKING A RURAL COUNTY IN EAST TENNESSEE OR AN F.B.I. AGENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THOSE NETWORKS ARE THERE AND WE CAN REACH OUT AND WORK TOGETHER.

AND I THINK THAT'S THE ONE THING WE'VE SEEN HERE, WHAT I'VE SEEN SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE, EVERYONE IS COMING TOGETHER FOR A REASON.

IT'S A COMMON GROUND AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.

I KNOW I'M THROWING THIS KIND OF FAST TO YOU, BUT LUNCH IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, ACCORDING TO MY SCHEDULE, AND I WAS TRYING TO CUT THIS SHORT.

IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS, I'LL BE GLAD TO ANSWER THEM.

I CAN GO ALL DAY ABOUT HOW GREAT THE T.B.I. IS BUT I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH SOMETHING BEFORE I GO.

MY DEPUTY DIRECTOR IS THE SECONDS NUMBER TWO MAN IN OUR AGENCY.

HE WAS AN AGENT, WORKED HIS WAY UP.

HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TODAY ARE BASICALLY ADMINISTRATION, MAKE SURE WE HAVE BULLETS IN OUR GUN TO GO TO THE RANGE, GAS THIS THE CAR TO DRIVE BACK AND FORTH WHERE WE NEED TO GO TO, HANDLING THE LEGISLATURE.

HIS JOB IS ADMINISTRATION.

I HAVE WORKED FOR THAT MAN FOR YEARS.

IN HIS OFFICE ON HIS BOOKCASE THERE'S A PICTURE OF GIRL.

I'LL BE HONEST FOR YEARS I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A NIECE.

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ONE DAY JUST CONVERSATION HAD LULLED A LITTLE BIT AND I SAID JEFF, WHO'S THE PICTURE OF?

THIS IS THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN OUR BUREAU AND HE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID DALE, THAT WAS A VICTIM OF A HOMICIDE.

I ASKED HER PARENTS TO GIVE ME THAT PICTURE.

AND I LEAVE IT ON MY BOOKCASE SO THAT I REMEMBER WHAT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AND WHY WE DO THE JOB WE DO.

THAT IS PRETTY MUCH THE DEDICATION, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT AS HONESTLY AND TRUTHFULLY AS I CAN, JUST ABOUT EVERY MEMBER OF OUR AGENCY FEELS THAT WAY.

AND OUR MOTTO AND MISSION STATEMENT IS VERY, VERY BRIEF.

IT'S THAT WE DON'T LET INNOCENT SUFFER AND WE DON'T LET THE GUILTY ESCAPE AND THAT'S WHAT WE LIVE BY EVERY DAY AND THAT'S WHAT YOU SEE EVERY DAY OUT HERE WHEN YOU CALL THE T.B.I.

IF YOU CALL US WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO HELP YOU OR GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO.

IF WE DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO WORK IT OR WE MAY HAVE TO HAVE YOU CALL THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OR WE MAY IN TURN CALL HIM FOR YOU, BUT ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT AS FAR AS CLOSING REMARKS.

IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS.

IF NOT, I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO TO LUNCH.

YES, SIR.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> WE HAVE A UNIT THAT DOES -- THROUGH THE INTERNET -- CHILD AGAINST -- I'M SORRY, I DON'T WORK THAT UNIT, BUT THEY GO OUT INTO THE COMPUTERS, THEY DO GO OUT AND DO THE INVESTIGATION THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

I'M NOT SURE IF I'M ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION RIGHT.

WE DO HAVE A UNIT THAT IS DEDICATED STRICTLY TO THAT KIND OF CRIMES.

IF THERE'S A CHILD PORNOGRAPHER OUT HERE POSTING IMAGES ONLINE, SOMEONE TRYING TO OBTAIN A CHILD OUR HUMAN TRAFFICKING, WE'RE STARTING UP NOW, IS GOING HAND IN HAND WITH THAT.

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YES, SIR.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> THAT'S CORRECT.

AND THERE'S 95 COUNTIES IN THIS STATE AND WE GO FROM MEMPHIS ALL THE WAY UP TO JOHNSON CITY.

YOU HAVE A LOT OF DIFFERENT VARIATIONS BECAUSE OF THE WAY WE ARE.

YOU MAY NOT GET SOME HELP FROM A LOCAL AGENCY.

IF NOT, YOU'RE FREE TO TURN AROUND AND CALL US.

THERE'S HOTLINES OUT HERE FOR US, 1-800-TBI-FIND.

WE'LL GET SOMEBODY ON THE PHONE FOR YOU.

AGAIN, IF YOU'RE AROUND NASHVILLE, YOU'RE USED TO DEALING WITH A VERY VISIBLE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

A VERY DEDICATED POLICE DEPARTMENT.

BUT IF YOU'RE OUT IN ONE OF THE FAR REACHES OF THE COUNTIES OUT HERE, THE SHERIFF WON'T CLOSE DOWN AT MIDNIGHT.

WE'RE THERE AND WE'LL BE THERE.

YES, SIR.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> YES, SIR.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> I WOULD WOULDN'T REPORT I AND LET IT DIE.

I'D REPORT IT TO THE SECRET SERVICE.

I BELIEVE THEY'RE DOING MOST OF THE IDENTITY THEFT INVESTIGATIONS BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL PART OF IT.

THAT WOULD BE MY FIRST PHONE CALL BUT I WOULDN'T LET IT DIE.

ANY OTHERS?

THANK Y'ALL.

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ENJOY YOUR LUNCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> BE BACK BY 12:30.

WE'LL HAVE U.S. ATTORNEY JERRY MARTIN.

[OFF MIC]

>> OUR CITY AND OUR COUNTY'S CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES, CHIEF STEVE ANDERSON.

IT'S A PLEASURE FOR YOU TO BE WITH US TODAY.

I SO APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THIS TIME.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU.

CERTAINLY MY PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE AND THANK TO YOU THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR PUTTING THIS FORUM TOGETHER.

THIS IS TIME WELL SPENT TODAY.

HEIGHT CRIMES WHETHER LOCAL OR FEDERALLY PROSECUTED ARE TAKEN VERY SERIOUS.

WE REVIEW EVERY REPORT THAT COMES THROUGH OUR DEPARTMENT, THAT HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF A HATE CRIME PROSECUTION.

TO CATEGORIZE IT, PROPERLY REPORT IT, AND MAKE SURE IT'S REFERRED FOR PROSECUTION.

DETECTIVE MIKE DIXON IS HERE TODAY.

HE'S THE TALL ONE.

HE'LL BE SPEAKING TO YOU A LITTLE BIT LATER ABOUT HIS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE.

HERE IN NASHVILLE WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE JERRY MARTIN AS THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

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ANYTIME THERE'S A CHANGE IN OFFICE, THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE YOU'RE SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE BECAUSE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH WHO IS THERE AND YOU DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S COMING ON BOARD.

BUT THIS TRANSITION HAS BEEN SEAMLESS.

JERRY HAS TAKEN OVER, HE'S CREATED A PARTNERSHIP WITH US.

WE'RE VERY PROUD TO WORK WITH HIM ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS.

I KNOW THAT I CAN CALL JERRY AT ANY TIME.

HE'S GOING TO TAKE MY CALL, HE'S GOING TO TAKE IT SERIOUS, AND HE'S GOING TO BE OUR PARTNER.

DAVE RIVERA, ONE OF HIS CHIEF ASSISTANTS IS HERE WITH US.

THANK YOU, DAVE.

JERRY WAS BORN IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

BELL BUCKLE.

AND SAYS NEAR SHELBYVILLE.

I THINK BELL BUCKLE IS PROBABLY MORE FAMOUS THAN SHELBYVILLE AT THIS TIME.

HE ATTENDED DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA.

AGAIN, WE'RE VERY PROUD TO HAVE HIM AS OUR UNITED STATES ATTORNEY.

MY FRIEND AND OUR PARTNER, JERRY MARTIN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU, CHIEF ANDERSON.

I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE THE U.S. ATTORNEY WITH YOU AT THE HELM OF THE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WE HAVE A GREAT WORKING RELATIONSHIP, AND SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP AND I APPRECIATE THAT.

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I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORUM.

SHORTLY AFTER BEING APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT AS THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

PRESIDENT OBAMA TOLD US THAT WE SHOULD NOT SEE OURSELVES AS HIS U.S. ATTORNEYS.

INSTEAD HE TOLD US THAT WE WERE THE PEOPLE'S ATTORNEYS.

WE WERE NOT, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT OBAMA, MERELY A LOCAL EXTENSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUT RATHER ADVOCATES FOR THE CITIZENRY IN OUR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.

I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO CARRY OUT THIS MANDATE THAN RIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.

AMERICA IS THE GREATEST NATION IN THE WORLD BECAUSE WE, A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS, HAVE HISTORICALLY EMBRACED OUR DIFFERENCES AND EVEN EXPLOITED THEM.

IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY AND OUR PAST IS SURELY NOT PERFECT, BUT TODAY'S FORUM IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE IDEA THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND JUSTICE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION IS COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF OUR HATE CRIMES STATUTES AND OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.

WE WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY AND ALLOW ANY OF OUR CITIZENS TO LIVE IN FEAR BECAUSE OF WHO THEY ARE.

WE WILL USE EVERY TOOL IN OUR ARSENAL AS FEDERAL PROSECUTORS TO SEEK JUSTICE AND HOLD THOSE ACCOUNTABLE WHO VIOLATE THE LAW.

IF YOU USE VIOLENCE TO DIVIDE OUR COMMUNITY BY TARGETING SOMEONE BASED ON THEIR RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR DISABILITY, WELCOME AFTER YOU.

YOU WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED UNDER THE LAW, AND YOU WILL FACE LENGTHY JAIL SENTENCES IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM WITH NO PAROLE.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION IS AS LEADER TOM PEREZ SAYS, OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

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BUT THIS COMMITMENT EXTENDS BEYOND WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. ATTORNEYS OFFICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT.

OUR REFERENCE INCLUDE A WIDE GAMUT INCLUDING CHALLENGING STATE VOTER IDENTIFICATION LAWS TO ENFORCING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, TO ENSURING THAT OUR SOLDIERS WHO RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT ARE NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

CLOSE TO HOME, THE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE SETTLEMENT WITH BANK OF AMERICA AND COUNTRY WIDE IN EXCESS OF \$300 MILLION FOR DISCRIMINATORY LENDING PRACTICES.

HUNDREDS OF VICTIMS HERE IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THESE RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AND WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SETTLEMENT.

ALL OF THESE EFFORTS ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE BUT NONE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A COMMITMENT TO ENFORCE THE HATE CRIMES STATUTE.

THE ENACTMENT OF THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE PREVENTION ACT GOES A LONG WAY TO GIVING LOCAL AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROSECUTE THESE CASES.

THE LAW MAKES IT EASIER TO PROSECUTE HATE CRIMES BY REMOVING UNNECESSARY JURISDICTIONAL OBSTACLES THAT OFTEN MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING THESE CASES.

THE LAW ALSO EMPOWERS US FOR THE FIRST TIME TO PROSECUTE HATE CRIMES COMMITTED BECAUSE OF A PERSON'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR DISABILITY.

SADLY, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT HAD TO USE THIS NEW LAW.

THE VERY FIRST CASE INDICTED UNDER THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT INVOLVE AS YOUNG MAN IN NEW MEXICO WITH A MENTAL DISABILITY WHOSE BODY WAS DEFACED AND BRANDED WITH SYMBOLS OF HATE DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS A NATIVE AMERICAN.

WITHOUT THIS HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION, BRINGING THIS CASE AND OTHERS LIKE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

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ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT THERE'S NOT A NEED FOR THESE LAWS AND THEIR RIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT IS SIMPLY IGNORING THE FACTS OF WHAT CAN AND DOES HAPPEN TO VICTIMS BASED ON THEIR IDENTITY.

WE HERE AT THE U.S. ATTORNEYS OFFICE IN NASHVILLE HAVE ALSO STEPPED UP OUR CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN ORDER TO SEND THE CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT THESE VIOLATIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

WE RECENTLY CONCLUDED A PROSECUTION OF THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO, AS YOU MAY RECALL, DEFACED WITH SWASTIKAS AND BURNED A MOSQUE IN MAURY COUNTY TO THE GROUND.

THIS HATEFUL ACT WAS COMMITTED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS IN ORDER TO CURRY FAVOR WITH HATE GROUPS.

I HAVE MET WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT MOSQUE, SOME OF WHOM ARE HERE TODAY, ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS.

AND YOU WON'T FIND CITIZENS WHO ARE MORE RESPECTFUL AND PROUD OF OUR CONSTITUTION AND DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

DESPITE THIS TERRIBLE EVENT, THEIR COMMITMENT TO THIS COUNTRY AND LOVE OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES IS DEEP AND HAS NOT BEEN SHAKEN.

THESE VICTIMS ARE NOT CONSUMED WITH BITTERNESS OR ANGER.

INSTEAD, THEY PRAISE THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HAVE TAKEN COMFORT IN THE WARM EMBRACE BY THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS IN MAURY COUNTY WHO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE ACTS OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS, ALL OF WHOM ARE SERVING LONG FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCES, ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY WE OWE IT TO THEM, THESE FAITHFUL CITIZENS, TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE.

UNFORTUNATELY IN SOME CORNERS THERE CONTINUES TO BE MISUNDERSTANDING AND DISTRUST OF OUR MUSLIM CITIZENS WHO IN MANY INSTANCES HAVE LIVED IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE THEIR ENTIRE LIVES AND SIMPLY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM.

LAST YEAR OUR OFFICE WEIGHED IN ON THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOSQUE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY.

DUE TO A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED COURT CHALLENGE TO THE CONSTRUCTION, RUTHERFORD COUNTY FOUND ITSELF IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT.

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DURING THESE COURT PROCEEDINGS OUR OFFICE BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE PLAINTIFFS WERE PUTTING ON EVIDENCE THAT ISLAM WAS NOT A RECOGNIZED RELIGION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR PURPOSES OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

RIGHT AROUND THE SAME TIME SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE WAS SET ON FIRE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BY AN ARSONIST WHO STILL REMAINS AT LARGE.

AS WE FOLLOW THESE EVENTS AND AS THE RHETORIC IN THE COURT PROCEEDINGS CONTINUE TO RATCHET UP, WHERE HE PREVAILED ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ALLOW US TO FILE AN AMICUS BRIEF, ALSO KNOWN AS A FRIEND OF THE COURT BRIEF TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON WHETHER ISLAM WAS INDEED A RECOGNIZED RELIGION.

THE RESPONSE TO THE FILING WAS MIXED.

HOWEVER, AFTER MEETING WITH SOME OF THE -- SOME OF THE CONGREGATION OF THIS MOSQUE, WE REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT OUR INTERVENTION WAS.

THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY, SOME OF WHOM HAS LIVED THERE FOR 30 YEARS, FINALLY FELT THAT SOMEONE IN GOVERNMENT WAS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY, TOO, ENJOY THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY THAT ARE ENSHRINED IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

THIS SIMPLE ACT REMINDED THEM OF THE CORE VALUES UPON WHICH THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED AND INSTILLED CONFIDENCE IN THEM THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY JUSTICE AND COMMON SENSE WOULD PREVAIL.

BUT AMICUS BRIEF AND LOFTY IDEAS AREN'T ENOUGH.

WE LIVE IN A WORLD IN WHICH SOME REFUSE, THROUGH THEIR ACTIONS, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE.

CURRENTLY OUR AIR FORCE IS PROSECUTING 30 GANG MEMBERS ENGAGED IN TRAFFICKING YOUNG GIRLS, SOME AS YOUNG AS 12 YEARS OLD, INTO THIS DISTRICT FOR PROSTITUTION.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAS REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTION, AND THE VICTIMS, OFTEN YOUNG CHILDREN OR IMMIGRANTS, ALMOST ALWAYS THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THESE CRIMES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE SCHOOL BULLYING.

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NO CHILD SHOULD BE AFRAID TO GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF HIS OR HER SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE, DISABILITY, OR RELIGION.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHO TURN A BLINDS EYE TO BULLYING OR DO NOT TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE HEARING FROM US.

DESPITE ALL THESE EFFORTS WE CAN STILL DO MORE.

TOO MANY OF OUR CITIZENS REMAIN THE TARGETS OF BULLYING, THREATS AND VIOLENCE BASED UPON THEIR RACE, RELIGION, ETHNICITY, GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

MY MESSAGE TO YOU TODAY IS SIMPLE.

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME OR OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION, THEN REPORT IT TO US OR OUR F.B.I. PARTNERS OR THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

SPEAK UP AND ENGAGE US.

WE WILL RESPOND.

RECENTLY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCED A CAMPAIGN CALLED IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

THE PREMISE BEING THAT THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORIST THREATS IS OUR CITIZENRY.

AS THE CASE OF THE TIMES SQUARE BOMBER DEMONSTRATES, AN OBSERVANT HOT DOG VENDOR CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THWARTING A DISASTER.

THAT PRINCIPLE CAN BE EXTENDED BEYOND COUNTERTERRORISM FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVOCACY GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE TODAY, LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU TO SPEAK UP AND REPORT INSTANCES OF POSSIBLE CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND HATE CRIMES IN PARTICULAR.

SIMPLY PUT, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

MY OFFICE AS WELL AS THE F.B.I. ARE AVAILABLE AS A RESOURCE TO YOU FOR TRAINING AND DIALOGUE.

RIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS CANNOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT SOMEONE ON THE GROUND IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS AND RESPONDING ACCORDINGLY.

THIS MUST BE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT.

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NO AGENCY, GROUP, OR INDIVIDUAL CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS UNILATERALLY.

A WEEK AND A HALF AGO THE NATION CELEBRATED THE BIRTHDAY OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

DR. KING FAMOUSLY SAID, THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG BUT IT BENDS TOWARDS JUSTICE.

I FIND THESE WORDS BOTH INSPIRING AND COMFORTING.

I REMIND THE ATTORNEYS AND STAFF OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THAT WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE JOBS WHOSE SOUL MANDATE IS TO SEEK JUSTICE ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF OUR DISTRICT.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT WE IN A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT WAY GET TO HELP TO BEND THAT ARC IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

RIGHT NOW WE'RE GOING TO BRING YOU ONE OTHER DEPARTMENTAL PARTNER IN TODAY'S FORUM, AND I AM MOST PRIVILEGED TO INTRODUCE MY FRIEND WALTER ATKINSON.

WALTER HAS -- HE CAME AND VISITED ME ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF AFTER I STARTED WITH THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION LAST SPRING AND WE'VE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT EVER SINCE.

S IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME THAT I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS FOR BUSINESS AS WELL AND THAT WE WERE DO ANYTHING THAT WE POSSIBLY COULD TO REINFORCE THE COMMISSION'S MISSION WHICH IS IN FACT TO PROMOTE HEALTH, SAFETY, PEACE AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE POPULATION OF DAVIDSON COUNTY.

AND WALTER AND I STARTED TALKING BACK THEN ABOUT WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TOGETHER.

AND PART OF THAT IS THIS CULMINATION OF THIS EVENT TODAY.

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SO WALTER ATKINSON THE SENIOR CONCILIATION SPECIALIST WITH THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

AND HE WORKS IN ATLANTA AND TRAVELS AROUND TO COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING SOME FORM OF STRESS OR CONFLICT AROUND CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES.

AND HE'S ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE ON THE GROUND TO HELP OUT IN A COMMUNITY.

HE IS OUR PARTNER.

HE IS OUR FRIEND, AND WALTER, PLEASE COME TO THE PODIUM.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

MANY OF YOU, YOU HEARD FROM THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, YOU HAVE HEARD FROM THE F.B.I., YOU HAVE HEARD FROM THE POLICE CHIEF, AND YOU HEARD FROM ALL THE PARTNERS THAT COME TOGETHER TO ADDRESS HATE, HATE CRIMES, AND WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT OUR AGENT THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

THE AGENCY ITSELF, THE ONLY TIME THAT THE [ INAUDIBLE ] FINALIZED AND GOING THROUGH CONGRESS, OUR AGENCY IS ONE OF THE PARTNERS AT THE TABLE.

IN THE ACT ITSELF, THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE DEPARTMENT IS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AND OUR ROLE.

WHAT DO WE DO AS AN AGENCY AND WHAT OUR ROLE IS IN ADDRESSING HATE CRIMES BASED ON ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED.

AND SO FROM HERE I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT SOME RECENT REPORTS, OUR AGENCY HAS JURISDICTION OVER EIGHT STATES, NORTH AND SOUTH REGION.

THOSE STATES YOU SEE, THERE'S TENNESSEE, ALABAMA, GEORGIA, FLORIDA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, MISSISSIPPI, AND KENTUCKY.

YOURS TRULY HAS THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE STATES OF TENNESSEE, SOUTH CAROLINA, MISSISSIPPI, AND KENTUCKY.

IN OUR OFFICE WE HAVE A LARGE STAFF OF THREE PEOPLE.

AND WHICH ONE OF THEM WORKS IN OUR FIELD OFFICE IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.

SO WE DO THE BEST THAT WE CAN.

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AND WE HAVE MANY EARS OUT THERE THAT KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS OUR HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

BEFORE YOU IS AN ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

AND ON THIS CHART YOU SEE DOWN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION IS OUR AGENCY, THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE, AND OUR DIRECTOR -- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. PEREZ AND THE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL.

SO THAT'S -- GET A CHANCE TO SEE ON THIS CHARTED WHERE WE FIT IN.

OUR AGENCY HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1964.

THE SIGNING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AND WE WERE ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE X OF THAT ACT.

THE ORIGINAL ACT WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED AND CONGRESS PASSED IT AND IT WAS SIGNED OFF BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON, LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON AT THE TIME, OUR AGENCY WAS GIVEN A MANDATE TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY CONFLICT BASED ON THE PERCEPTION OF DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF ONE'S RACE, COLOR, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

WITH THAT WE WERE ALSO GIVEN THE AUTHORITY BY CONGRESS TO INTERVENE ON OUR OWN VOLITION.

WE MONITORED VIDEO LINES, WE CAN CONTACT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, POLICE DEPARTMENTS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND OTHER ENTITIES WHO ARE AWARE OF OUR SERVICES CAN ASK FOR ASSISTANCE.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES ACT ADDED THE OTHER PROTECTED CLASSES AS YOU SEE THERE.

AND YOU'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THAT ALL DAY, SO I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO THAT.

BUT THOSE WERE ADDED TO OUR JURISDICTION AND WE WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS ISSUES THAT BASICALLY HAVE SOME TYPE OF CONFLICT THAT OCCURRED, SUCH AS THE RECENT ONE IN SMITH COUNTY.

I WAS IN -- I WAS AT A CONVENTION AT THE WILLIAMSBURG SHOP AT TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY THIS PAST WEEKEND.

SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF IT.

AFTER I COMPLETED MY PRESENTATION, I GO ADDRESS ISSUES IN THE SCHOOL AND A COUPLE OF PARENTS CAME UP TO ME AND SAID WE JUST HAD A SUICIDE, AN

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ELEMENTARY STUDENT COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE HE COULD NO LONGER TAKE THE BULLYING IN SCHOOL AND THE BULLYING WAS BASED ON HIS SEXUAL OR PERCEIVED OR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

AND THE PARENTS ASKED ME, HE SAID HE'S VERY -- HE FELT VERY SAD ABOUT IT BECAUSE HE SAID, WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.

AND THIS WASN'T THE PARENT OF THE -- OF THE STUDENT, BUT A PARENT IN THE COMMUNITY.

COULD I HAVE DONE MORE?

AND HE HELD HIS HEAD DOWN.

AND IT WAS ALLEGED THAT THE STUDENT TRIED TO GET HELP BUT NO ONE GAVE THE ATTENTION TO IT.

SO WE LOSE A YOUNG LIFE.

THAT'S HARD BECAUSE AS A FORMER TEACHER, I TAUGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, AND I ALSO HAD A OPPORTUNITY IN MY CLASSROOM WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE.

AND, YOU KNOW, AS A TEACHER, TAKE THAT PRETTY SERIOUSLY AND HARD.

JUST AS MUCH AS THE PARENTS DO.

YOU PRETTY MUCH KNOW -- YOU HAVE SEEN THIS MOST ALL DAY TODAY.

MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. AND IT'S BASICALLY THE HATE CRIMES ACT, IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE IMPETUS AND I WON'T GO INTO THAT TOO MUCH.

SO WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS AND WHAT DO WE DO?

WE PROVIDE OUR SERVICES BACK DOOR CONCILIATION, MEDIATION, PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING.

WE TRY TO GET PARTIES TO SIT DOWN AND COMMUNICATE AND DIALOGUE.

WE WORK THROUGH WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THAT THERE MAY BE.

SO THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHO WE ARE.

OUR MANDATE, WE ARE IMPARTIAL AGENCY.

WE DON'T SET BLAME.

WE TRY TO LOOK AT THE CONFLICT FROM BOTH SIDES.

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AND TRY TO IDENTIFY ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY AND GET THEM TO AGREE LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO REVOLVE WHATEVER THE ISSUE OR CONFLICT IS.

WE'RE ALSO SWORN TO CONFIDENTIALITY.

WE DO NOT DISCLOSE THE WORK, WE DO NOT TALK TO THE MEDIA.

ALL RIGHT?

AT LEAST WE DO NOT IN THE FIELD.

BUT OUR OFFICE IN WASHINGTON HAS THE MEDIA COVERAGE THAT DOES ALL THE COMMUNICATION.

BUT WE DO NOT DISCLOSE WHAT WE'RE DOING UNLESS THE PARTIES INVOLVED GIVE US PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION.

AND ONLY THEN WHAT THEY AGREE FOR US TO DISCLOSE.

IN REGARDS TO MEDIATION, HERE'S A PICTURE OF A MEDIATION PROCESS THAT IS TAKING PLACE IN A SMALL TOWN IN SOUTH CAROLINA THAT I FACILITATED.

THIS MEDIATION TOOK A LITTLE OVER A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S A LONG TIME.

YOU DON'T JUST GO IN, GET THE PARTIES TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE AND RUSH THEM THROUGH.

SO ONE OF THE REASONS, BECAUSE WITHIN THE GROUP, THE COMMUNITY HAS THEIR REPUTATION AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE CITY MAYOR, THE MAYOR, CITY MANAGER IDENTIFY THEIR TEAM.

NOW, WHAT WAS SO UNIQUE ABOUT THIS MEDIATION PROCESS, THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE -- THIS PARTICULAR MEDIATION WAS RACIAL PROFILING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THIS TOWN.

BUT BEFORE THE TEAM -- MEDIATION TEAM WAS IDENTIFIED THE COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY HOSTED A FORUM, OVER 200 PEOPLE CAME, AND THERE THEY DID A COUPLE OF THINGS.

ONE, THEY IDENTIFIED THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO THEM AS RELATES TO POLICE AND SECOND, WHAT WAS THE TOP PRIORITY ISSUES THEY WANTED TO HAVE ADDRESSED AND THEN THEY SELECTED THE TEAM THAT WOULD REPRESENT THEM.

ALL RIGHT?

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ONCE THEY'RE IDENTIFIED AND THE MAYOR PUT TOGETHER HIS TEAM, WE WENT FORTH.

AND WITHIN THE MEDIATION PROCESS, WHAT ALSO HAPPENED, THEY DISCOVERED BEFORE WE CAN MAKE A DECISION ON AGREEING OR SOLUTION, WE NEED TO DO SOME MORE RESEARCH.

SO THEY DIVIDED UP IN TEAMS AND WENT OUT AND DID ADDITIONAL RESEARCH IN REGARDS TO HOW MUCH -- WE DID A PARTICULAR -- WE DID SAY STANDARDIZATION, WE STANDARDIZED THE CRITERIA OF AN OFFICER, HOW MUCH WOULD THAT COST IN TIME AND DOLLARS AND SO ON.

THEY DID ALL THE RESEARCH TOGETHER.

THEY CAME BACK, THEY REPORTED OUT, THEY SAID YES, WE CAN GO WITH THIS OR WE CAN'T GO WITH IT.

SO THAT'S ONE REASON WHY THE MEDIATION TOOK SOME TIME, BECAUSE THEY DID RESEARCH.

SO WHEN IT WAS ALL DONE, THEY ALL AGREED WE HAD A LOT IN COMMON THAN WE HAD AGAINST EACH OTHER.

AND THEY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT.

THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE ACTUAL SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT.

THIS IS ANOTHER OPERATION THAT WE DO TO HELP THE COMMUNITY, DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROTESTS, WE WORK WITH ALL THE PARTIES, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT, WE WORK WITH F.B.I., U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IF THEY'RE INVOLVED, AS WELL AS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS CAN OCCUR, THAT IT'S DONE PEACEFULLY.

THAT HOPEFULLY THAT THE EVENT ENDS WITHOUT ANYONE GETTING HURT.

HOPEFULLY VERY, VERY FEW, IF NOT NONE ARRESTS.

AND THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

ALTHOUGH I'M BASED IN REGION 4, I WAS BASICALLY ALSO WAS ASKED TO JOIN THE TEAM IN JENA, LOUISIANA FOR THIS PARTICULAR DEMONSTRATION PROTEST THAT YOU SEE, THERE ARE SOME NATIONAL LEADERS THAT ARE UP FRONT AND YOU'D BE SURPRISED A LOT OF THE ISSUES WE HAD TO DEAL WITH.

THOSE PEOPLE IN THE YELLOW AND THOSE -- ALL THOSE THAT MEMBERS OF THE SPLC, WE [ INAUDIBLE ].

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5:00 IN THE MORNING, WE IDENTIFIED WHO THEY WERE AND THEN WE HAD A JOINT TRAINING, GAVE THEM MARSHAL TRAINING.

YES, I MEAN 5:00 IN THE MORNING.

THEY STARTED RISING AT 4:00 IN THE MORNING.

AND SO WE WERE ON SITE TO DO THAT.

THIS IS A RALLY IN A SMALL TOWN OF GEORGIA FOR SOME VERY, VERY SMALL CHIEF, MAYBE TWO OFFICERS.

BUT KU KLUX KLAN HAD TO HAVE A RALLY THERE, THAT WAS IN 2010 AND THIS WAS KIND OF NEW TO THEM.

AND WHAT YOU SEE THERE IS ON THE LEFT SIDE A WIZARD SPEAKING OUT AND THEN TO THE RIGHT, YOU SAW MEMBERS OF THE KLAN UP FRONT AND THEN YOU SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE ALL INTERMINGLING TOGETHER.

THAT'S REALLY NOT THE RIGHT WAY TO HAVE THAT.

BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW.

SO WE HAD -- WE WORKED NOT ONLY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, ALSO WITH -- ALSO THE F.B.I. PEOPLE, LOCAL SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND SO ON TO HAVE -- TO HELP SECURITY AND ALSO MONITOR FOR ANY OUTSIDE GROUPS THAT COME IN AND TRY TO CREATE PROBLEMS.

NOW, WHAT SOME OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW IN THIS TYPE OF SITUATION, BECAUSE WE MET WITH THE KLAN MEMBERS.

WE SAT DOWN AND MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE KLAN FOR THAT PARTICULAR AREA.

AND WE WERE VERY UP FRONT TO SAY WE WANT THIS TO BE PEACEFUL.

WE DON'T WANT ANY PROBLEMS.

AND YES, AS MR. SHEPARD SAID, AREA OF THE LAW IS THE LAW.

REGARDLESS WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEIR POSITION, WHAT THEIR VALUES ARE, WE HAVE TO PROTECT EVERYONE BY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

WE HELP AND TRY TO PROTECT RIGHTS [ INAUDIBLE ] BUT ALL THOSE THAT ARE [ INAUDIBLE ] AS WELL.

SO WE MEET WITH THE KLAN.

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THE PROBLEM WE FOUND WAS THAT THE -- ON YOUR RIGHT-HAND SIDE, AND YOU PROBABLY SEE THIS IN A MOMENT NOW, PICTURE THE WIZARDS FOR THAT LOCAL AREA WAS VERY ACCOMMODATING AND REALLY WANTED PEACE.

HE DIDN'T WANT ANY HATEFUL LANGUAGE AT ALL.

THE GENTLEMAN YOU SEE IN THE BROWN WAS COMPLETELY OPPOSITE.

HE BROUGHT A GROUP DOWN TO JOIN THIS PARTICULAR RALLY FROM ALABAMA.

AND WITH VERY, VERY VOCAL AND USED A LOT OF LANGUAGE THAT REALLY HEIGHTENED SOME TENSIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE THERE THAT YOU SAW ON THE -- YOU SEE ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE.

SO WE HAD TO WORK THROUGH THAT AND GOT THROUGH IT VERY PEACEFULLY.

ON TOP OF THAT, WE ALSO GOT WORD, THIS IS ANOTHER THING WE DO, THROUGH OUR INTELLIGENCE AND PEOPLE ON THE GROUND, OUR CONTACTS, THAT THE NEW BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS COMING TO TOWN AND THEY WERE ALSO A THREAT AS WELL.

SO WE HAD TO DEAL WITH THAT AS WELL.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AS I TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE RALLIES.

THAT HAPPENED TO BE A RALLY TO BEN -- REALLY IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, AND WE WORKED WITH THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE F.B.I. AND ALL THE KEY PEOPLE THERE AT T.B.I. AND SO ON, AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH REGARDS TO THE BEST PRACTICES WE HAVE KNOWN WORKING WITH THESE AGENCIES.

WE DON'T TELL LAW ENFORCEMENT WHAT TO DO.

WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP.

IF THEY ASK US, WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS DONE THAT'S BEEN USED AS BEST PRACTICES AND WE SHARE THAT WITH THEM.

WE HAVE DEVELOPED CONTINGENCY PLANS AS WELL AS OPERATION PLANS.

AND WE CARRY THEM OUT.

AND THE CHIEF THERE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB, I THOUGHT, BECAUSE HE'S THE LEAD PERSON, THE CHIEF OF THE KNOXVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT DID AN EXCELLENT JOB IN THE WAY HE HANDLED THIS PARTICULAR RALLY.

ANOTHER EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE, THIS TOOK PLACE IN -- WOW.

IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

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AS YOU CAN SEE AGAIN, ANOTHER ISSUE OF CONCERN ABOUT RACIAL PROFILING.

WHAT YOU HAVE THERE IN THE LAST -- I WAS FACILITATING A DISCUSSION THERE AND ALONG WHERE THE F.B.I., MR. LAMBERT, AND OFF TO HIS LEFT OR RIGHT WAS THE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THAT EASTERN DISTRICT WAS ALSO THERE AND THEY ALSO TOOK PART IN THE WORKSHOP.

WE HAD BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND THEY PRESENTED AT THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS.

WE HAD ABOUT, OH, 200, 300 PEOPLE THAT CAME OUT TO THIS PARTICULAR EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE.

FACILITATING FORUMS AND WORKSHOPS, THAT'S PART OF THE STUFF WE DO TO HELP AGAIN TO EDUCATE AND GET THE COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER BUT IT'S NOT JUST ENOUGH TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AND TALK.

WE WANT TO GO SOME TYPE OF COMPASSIONATE BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT.

BECAUSE ONCE I LEAVE, GO BACK TO ATLANTA, YOU LIVE HERE, ALL RIGHT?

SO CONTINUE TO COME BACK EVERY INCIDENT, TRY TO HELP THE COMMUNITY PULL TOGETHER A STRATEGY AND DO COMPASSION BUILDING TO ADDRESS THESE TYPE OF SITUATIONS BY WORKING WITH CITY OFFICIALS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT, SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL AND SO ON TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

AND IF YOU WANT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE, WE [ INAUDIBLE ] THERE AS WELL.

THIS IS ANOTHER EVENT, AND I KNOW ANOTHER PROGRAM PROVIDE IS KNOWN AS THE SEEK CULTURAL AWARENESS AND PROTOCOL SEMINAR.

WE USE THAT TO DEVELOP THIS PARTICULAR SEMINAR AFTER 9/11 AND THE USED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY EVER SINCE.

AND AGAIN, ANOTHER ONE OF OUR MOST REQUESTED SEMINARS.

WE DON'T PRESENT IT.

WE HELP LOCAL COMMUNITY PUT IT TOGETHER.

HOWEVER, WE DO BRING IN SPEAKERS AND CONSULTANTS TO ACTUALLY PRESENT.

THE MOST RECENT ONE WE HAD WAS IN MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE, THAT PRETTY MUCH STEMMED FROM THE BUILDING OF THE MOSQUE THERE.

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WHAT THE PAST -- WHAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY THERE WANTED WAS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS TO GET EDUCATED ABOUT THE CULTURE AND PROTOCOL OF ARABS AND MUSLIMS.

WHY?

BECAUSE THEIR CHILDREN WAS BEING HARASSED -- ALLEGING HARASSED AND INTIMIDATED AND THREATENED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MOSQUE -- BUILDING OF THE MOSQUE SITUATION THERE.

THAT CAME ABOUT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, JERRY MARTIN, BLANCHE YOU HEARD EARLIER, F.B.I. YOU HEARD AND SOME OF THE OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE THAT CAME AND TOOK PART IN THIS PARTICULAR WORKSHOP WITH SCHOOL COUNSELORS, PRINCIPALS, VICE PRINCIPALS AND EDUCATORS AND STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART IN THAT.

WE HAD ALMOST 200 PEOPLE THIS CAME TO THAT PARTICULAR EVENT THAT REPRESENTED BOTH THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE MURFREESBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT.

SO -- AND IT WAS VERY, VERY SUCCESSFUL.

AGAIN, THAT'S ANOTHER PICTURE OF THAT SAME [ INAUDIBLE ] AND THE GENTLEMAN AT THE PODIUM WAS THE ONE FOR THAT PARTICULAR AREA OF THE KU KLUX KLAN AND HE WAS THE ONE THAT WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY WITH THAT PARTICULAR RALLY.

AND IT WAS -- HE GOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE OTHER GENTLEMAN I'M TELLING YOU ABOUT BECAUSE HE WANTED -- HE HAD ANOTHER AGENDA.

THE GENTLEMAN -- THE WIZARD THAT CAME FROM ALABAMA.

SO THOSE ARE THE TYPES OF THINGS THAT WE DO TO TRY TO HELP BE SUCCESSFUL.

I'M NOT -- ONLY THING I CAN SAY ABOUT THE JASPER, TEXAS, CASE, WE WAS BROUGHT IN NOT TOO LONG RIGHT AFTER THE INCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE THE TENSION IN JASPER, TEXAS, HAD GOTTEN SO, SO HEIGHTENED THAT ANYTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED.

THE BLACK COMMUNITY, THE WHITE COMMUNITY, WE WERE BROUGHT ON TO HELP TRY TO HELP REDUCE THAT TENSION AND GET PEOPLE TO WORK, THE COMMUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER.

ON TOP OF THAT, WE ALSO GOT TO WORK THE NEW -- MEMBERS OF THE NEW PARTY WAS COMING IN AND BRINGING WEAPONS AS WELL.

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THERE WAS A LOT OF TENSE MOMENTS.

THOSE THAT WORKED AND SOME F.B.I. AND FROM THE -- AND I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S MR.-- NOT MR. SHEPARD BUT THE F.B.I. THAT WAS HERE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR CASE BECAUSE THEY SEEN REAL LIFE AND THEY KNOW HOW TENSE THAT SITUATION WAS.

AND WE WORKED WITH THE COMMUNITY TO HELP REDUCE THOSE TENSIONS.

AND YOU STILL HAVE TENSION THERE NOW.

THIS IS ANOTHER CASE THAT WE WORKED ON.

THIS HAPPENED TO BE IN HUDSON, VIRGINIA.

NOT TO GO IN TOO MUCH BUT THE IDEA HERE IS TO SHOW YOU THE TYPE OF CASES WE'VE DONE, HOW WE'VE WORKED WITH COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS THOSE SITUATIONS, AND BULLYING.

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE BULLYING HAS INCREASED AND AS JERRY MENTIONED EARLIER, THAT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE TOLERATED AND THAT WE'RE GOING TO ADDRESS -- WORK AGGRESSIVELY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM.

AND WE HAVE WORKED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, WE GOT TOGETHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND OTHER AGENCIES TO COME UP WITH SOME BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES THAT SCHOOLS CAN USE TO ADDRESS BULLYING.

OUT FRONT IN THE LOBBY ON ONE OF THOSE TABLES I BROUGHT RESOURCES THAT YOU CAN TAP INTO, AND ALSO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR AGENCY AND WHAT WE DO AS WELL.

BUT THAT RESOURCE PACKET, SOME OF YOU MAY WANT TO PICK UP AND TAKE WITH YOU TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, YOUR SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY, AND SO ON.

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, I WAS JUST IN COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE, PRESENTING SPECIFICALLY WHAT CAN WE DO TO ADDRESS BULLYING IN THE SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY.

THIS PARTICULAR I THOUGHT WAS TELLING BECAUSE IF YOU LOOK AT THE AGE BRACKET OR GRADE BRACKETS, TAKE A LOOK.

THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE VERY, VERY VULNERABLE.

YES, HIGH SCHOOL, BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

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AND SO WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO ADDRESS IT.

AND THAT'S HAD TO BE SOMETIMES SOME HARD LOVE.

HARD LOVE.

AT THE END, HERE'S MY -- AGAIN MY INFORMATION.

THE AGENCY, THE PHONE NUMBER.

YOU CAN ALSO -- OUR WEBSITE.

YOU CAN GO TO THE WEBSITE.

THERE IS MY EMAIL ADDRESS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR JUST ANY WAY THAT YOU THINK THAT WE CAN HELP YOU, ASSIST YOU, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME.

I SEE A HAND UP.

YES, SIR.

>> VERY QUICK QUESTION.

>> YES.

>> [OFF MIC]. RUNNING NATIONAL ADS AND THEY'RE PURELY ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL.

[OFF MIC]

BUT AS HATEFUL AS THAT COULD BE AND RUNNING AN AD ON TELEVISION AND I WANT TO GET A BIG RALLY GOING, DO I COME SEE YOU FIRST?

>> I WON'T BE THE FIRST ONE.

I WON'T BE THE FIRST ONE YOU GO SEE.

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A RALLY, THE FIRST THING YOU PROBABLY WANT TO DO IS TALK TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHY?

I THINK THEY HAVE THE JURISDICTION AND THE CHIEF CAN CORRECT ME ON THIS, OR THE ATTORNEY CAN CORRECT ME ON THIS, HAVE THE JURISDICTION TO GIVE YOU A PERMIT TO RALLY.

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YOU HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE IT, WHERE, AND THEY HAVE TO GIVE YOU PERMITS.

RIGHT?

SO THEY HAVE TO DO THAT BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT THEY HAVE TO DO WITH REGARDS TO ONE, GIVE YOU APPROVAL, SECURITY, TRAFFIC AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING.

SO THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS.

THE NEXT THING YOU OUGHT TO DO THEN, SAY CONTACT OUR OFFICE, SAY WE'RE HAVING THIS RALLY AND WE MAY NEED SOME ASSISTANCE.

WE MAY NEED TO TRAIN SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHAT TO LOOK FOR, HOW TO BE A MARSHAL AND THOSE TYPES OF THINGS.

AND WE WILL WORK WITH YOU IN REGARDS TO THAT.

ALL RIGHT?

SO THOSE ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO.

BUT I THINK WE HAVE TO TALK TO YOU FURTHER AFTER THIS OR YOU GIVE ME A CONTACT NUMBER AND WE CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER.

>> [OFF MIC] RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OPENLY ANTI-GAY, OPENLY HATEFUL AND WE HAVE A HATE CRIME THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING AND WORKING ON.

[OFF MIC]

DOES THAT DISTURB YOU?

>> [OFF MIC].

BLANCHE.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> [OFF MIC] THIS IS FEDERAL LAW.

WE'VE GOT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES THAT ARE COMING IN AND SAYING HATEFUL THINGS, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT VERY THINGS ADDRESSED BY THIS FEDERAL LAW AND YET THEY'RE RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT.

DOES THAT CONCERN -- CONCERN THE ADMINISTRATION [ INAUDIBLE ]?

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>> [OFF MIC]

>> I WANT TO THANK WALTER FOR YOUR PRESENTATION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE ARE PUSHING INTO OUR PANELISTS' TIME SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE RESPECT THE PANELISTS WHO HAVE COME IN FOR THIS TIME.

WALTER, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO KNOW -- WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE HERE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME I'D LIKE TO DO TWO THINGS.

FIRST, JUST PREVIEW FOR YOU THE REST OF THE DAY.

WE HAVE A PANEL OF COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO HAVE COME TOGETHER THIS AFTERNOON TO SHARE WITH US A LITTLE BIT MORE PERSONALLY ABOUT WHAT THIS ISSUE LOOKS LIKE ON THE GROUND.

AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE HERE TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH ALL OF THE OFFICIALS WHO ARE HERE.

AND SO ONE OF OUR COMMISSIONERS, DEB PALMER GEORGE WILL FACILITATE A SMALL GROUP CONVERSATION ACTIVITY AFTER THE PANEL HAPPENS.

AND WE'LL HAVE OTHER TIME FOR QUESTION AND ANSWERS AT THAT TIME, TOO.

I'D LIKE TO ASK THE PANELISTS TO JUST COME UP TO THE TABLE SITTING HERE, AND I WILL GO THROUGH THEIR NAMES AND A SHORT INTRODUCTION OF EACH ONE OF THEM WHO IS COMING UP.

THE PERSON FIRST COMING UP IS DAOUD ABUDIAB, HE IS PRESIDENT -- YOU CAN SIT RIGHT HERE, HE IS PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF COLUMBIA.

AND YOU'VE HEARD AND SEEN WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THAT MOSQUE IN COLUMBIA TODAY.

SO HE WILL SPEAK TO US ABOUT THAT.

ON THE -- SITTING NEXT TO DAOUD IS CHRIS SANDERS.

AND CHRIS SANDERS IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE NASHVILLE COMMITTEE OF THE TENNESSEE EQUALITY PROJECT.

AND WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE.

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HEDY WEINBERG WHO IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TENNESSEE ACLU, PROTECTING -- HEDY, I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WALTER WAS SAYING, WITH THE KLAN ON ONE SIDE AND THE COMMUNITY ON THE OTHER SIDE, PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS ON BOTH ENDS OF THE EQUATION AND WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PRESENCE.

NEXT TO HEDY IS JONATHAN ORR WHO IS THE PROGRAM MANAGER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY WITH METRO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

AND IT'S A FORUM TODAY I'D ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND WELCOME ALL OF THE METRO SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO ARE HERE WITH US TODAY.

WE HAVE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AS WELL AS FAMILY INVOLVEMENT SPECIALISTS HERE AND I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

NEXT TO JONATHAN IS ONE OF MY NEW BUDS, DETECTIVE MIKE DIXON AND MIKE DIXON IS THE OFFICER WHO IS ASSIGNED UNDER CHIEF ANDERSON TO INVESTIGATE HATE CRIME IN METRO, DAVIDSON COUNTY.

AND FINALLY NEXT TO HIM, A LONG-TIME FRIEND IS RODGER DINWIDDIE.

RODGER IS THE EXECUTIVE -- IT SAYS C.E.O. OF STARS NASHVILLE AND THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE EDUCATORS IN AND AROUND THE STATE KNOW THAT STARS WERE STUDENTS TAKING A RIGHT STAND WORK WITH STUDENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS ALWAYS ON SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING, CONFLICT RESOLUTION MANAGEMENT, RODGER IS A PREVENTION TRAINER, THE ABSOLUTE BULLY PREVENTION TRAINING IN THE WORLD.

I THANK ALL OF YOU AND EACH OF THEM WILL HAVE REMARKS AND THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THE AUDIENCE TO HAVE QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> IS THIS WORKING?

OKAY.

[ INAUDIBLE ] I WORK WITH AN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS PRIMARILY ON GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES AND I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE CONTEXT IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

AND I THINK THIS WILL TELL YOU A LOT.

THIS IS MY FAVORITE SIGN TO SEE WHEN I'M DRIVING.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU CAN SEE IT.

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BUT IT SAYS MUSIC CITY METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE, DAVIDSON COUNTY, HOME TO HAVE GRAND OLE OPRY.

AND I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHY THAT'S MY FAVORITE SIGN TO SEE.

BECAUSE THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY UNFORTUNATELY IS THE ONLY ONE IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE WHERE I'M ASSURED THAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME THE GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIAL THAT IS I'M DEALING WITH WILL MAKE A REASONABLE EFFORT OF TREATING ME FAIRLY.

OUR METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT HAS WORKED VERY HARD, I THINK, AT HAVING AN INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY SINCE 2009 AND WE'VE SEEN A NUMBER OF FRUITS COME FROM THAT.

I THINK IT'S BEEN A FAR MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME.

AND COMPARED TO ANY OTHER METRO -- ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

LET ME RUN DOWN SOME INCIDENTS THAT WILL GIVE YOU A SENSE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, OR TRANSGENDER IN TENNESSEE OUTSIDE NASHVILLE.

THE SPONSORS OF A BILL THAT TOOK AWAY 2011 NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE CAME FROM WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND WILSON COUNTY.

JACOB ROGERS A GAY MAN IN CHEATHAM COUNTY TOOK HIS LIFE AFTER BEING BULLIED IN SCHOOL.

ROLLING HILLS HOSPITAL IN FRANKLIN DENIED A LESBIAN COUPLE PARTNER VISITATION UNTIL IT WAS BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION THAT THEY COULDN'T DO THAT BECAUSE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REGULATIONS.

A GAY MALE RAPE VICTIM WAS DEMEANED BY THE FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT WHEN HE REPORTED THE CRIME.

HE WAS TOLD SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT OF, WELL, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ALL LIKE?

PHILLIP PARKER, A GAY TEEN IN SMITH COUNTY, TOOK HIS LIFE AFTER BEING BULLIED JUST RECENTLY.

ALL OF THESE INCIDENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS, APART FROM THE LEGISLATION THAT I REFERENCED.

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ON TOP OF ALL THAT WE'VE GOT THIS STATEWIDE LAYER OF DEALING WITH ALL THIS ANTI-EQUALITY LEGISLATION.

NOW, THESE EVENTS ARE NOT HATE CRIMES IN AND OF THEMSELVES, BUT THEY DO SET, I THINK, A CLIMATE OF FEAR FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

AGAIN, WE HAVE A VERY GOOD SITUATION, I THINK, IN METRO NASHVILLE.

BUT ONCE YOU CROSS THE BORDER, IT'S REALLY HIT OR MISS IN TERMS OF WHOM YOU'RE DEALING WITH.

IN TERMS OF THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS LAST YEAR THAT THE T.B.I. COLLECTED, THERE WERE HATE CRIMES BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN MURFREESBORO, DICKSON, MANCHESTER, GREENBRIER, HENDERSONVILLE, AND METRO NASHVILLE.

SO WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT IMMUNE BUT THIS WHOLE AREA HAS SEEN A NUMBER OF HATE CRIMES.

SO THAT JUST SETS THE CONTEXT AND MAYBE WE CAN TALK ABOUT MORE OF THAT LATER.

THANK YOU.

>> MY NAME IS DAOUD ABUDIAB AND I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC CENTER IN COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE.

I'M NOT A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT, I'M NOT AN EXPERT ABOUT HATE CRIME, BUT AS A VICTIM OF HATE CRIME I'M GOING TO MAKE COMMENTS ABOUT TWO PERSONAL STORIES.

ONE IS ABOUT THE BURNING OF THE ISLAMIC CENTER WHICH YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT.

I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO MUCH MORE DETAIL.

THE OTHER ONE IS ABOUT MY OWN CHILDREN, MY SON AND DAUGHTER BEING IN SCHOOL AND EXPERIENCING BULLYING FOR BEING MUSLIM.

IN BOTH INSTANCES I THINK IT'S -- WHAT I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU IS -- AND I'M ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THOSE EVEN THOUGH THERE'S RISK IN TALKING ABOUT THEM, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THERE IS COMMITMENT AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVEL FOR MY CIVIL RIGHTS.

SO I'M EMPOWERED TO TALK ABOUT THEM, AND I BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT THOSE STORIES.

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THE FIRST ONE IS -- FIRST COMMENT IS THAT I BELIEVE THAT OUR TROUBLE IN COLUMBIA DID NOT START ON FEBRUARY 9, 2008.

OUR TROUBLE BEGAN WITH A SUBCULTURE I THINK EXISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AS YOU HAVE MENTIONED, MY ANSWER TO YOU IS YES, I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT ARE MADE BY POLITICIANS AND LEADERS, BOTH ON THE LOCAL AND THE STATE LEVEL.

BUT THIS CULTURE, SUBCULTURE OF HATE I THINK REDUCES -- IS ALL ABOUT REDUCING INDIVIDUALS AND HUMANS TO A SINGLE ISSUE ITEM AND I LOVED WHAT MR. SHEPARD HAS SAID, MATT WAS HIS SON, NOT HIS GAY SON.

MY WIFE IS MR. JOB GLOVER'S DAUGHTER, NOT MR. JOB GLOVER'S MUSLIM DAUGHTER. AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THAT.

I THINK FIRST YOU MAKE A HUMAN BEING A SINGLE ISSUE LABEL AND THEN THERE'S A PROCESS OF DEMONIZING.

IT BECOMES EASY TO TARGET THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH HATE SPEECH.

WHICH KIND OF SETS THE TONE THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE AND BREATHE THAT CULTURE AND ARE ENCOURAGED BY OTHERS UNFORTUNATELY TO ACTUALLY CROSS THE LINE INTO COMMITTING AN ACT OF HATE, A CRIMINAL ACT, AS THEY DID WITH OUR MOSQUE.

WITH MY SON, HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE INTO A PUBLIC SCHOOL WAS THAT HE -- WHEN WE COMPLAINED TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, 22 STUDENTS WERE CALLED IN TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE FOR CALLING HIM A TERRORIST AND SAYING THAT THEY WOULD CUT HIS HEAD OFF BEFORE HE WOULD GET A CHANCE TO KILL THEM BECAUSE HE'S A TERRORIST.

SO MY FIRST CALL TO ACTION IS A CITIZEN, WHICH I KNOW LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN DO, AS A CITIZEN I WOULD SAY LET'S RECOGNIZE WHAT HATE SPEECH IS AND WE HAVE A VOICE AND WE CAN SPEAK AGAINST HATE SPEECH.

SO THAT WOULD BE AN ANSWER TO WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER.

THE SECOND THING IS IN TALKING ABOUT MY STORY I LEARNED THE IMPACT OF HATE CRIME.

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AND AT THE TIME MR. WALTER HAS INDICATED, HE WAS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME AND HE SAID WE HAVE RESOURCES, WE HAVE THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CAN DO CERTAIN THINGS TO HELP YOU OUT.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WERE GOING THROUGH AND I THINK AS LEADERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE THOSE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HATE CRIME VICTIMS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WE'RE NOT ON THE SAME PAGE.

YES, MY WIFE HAD HORRIBLE DREAMS IN WHICH SHE WOULD WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, HAVING A DREAM ABOUT SOMEONE WAS REMOVING HER HEAD SCARF AND PULLING HER HAIR IN PUBLIC.

YES, I DIDN'T SLEEP.

I STILL CAN'T SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT.

I HAVE TO SET MY ALARM AT MY HOUSE AND EVERYTIME I DO I THINK ABOUT SOMEBODY THROWING SOMETHING THROUGH THE WINDOW.

THE STRESS, THE WITHDRAWAL, THE REEVALUATION OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, WHY DIDN'T PEOPLE COME AND SAY SORRY ABOUT THIS.

IS IT BECAUSE THEY DON'T CARE?

WHAT ABOUT MY FAMILY WHO'S CHRISTIAN?

MY GRANDKIDS, THEIR GRANDFATHER IS THE METHODIST PREACHER?

HOW DOES HE FEEL ABOUT THAT?

SO IT IS IMPORTANT, I THINK, FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THAT, FOR THE LEADERS TO MAKE SURE THOSE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE, TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT AND FOR PEOPLE WITH THE RESOURCES TO REALLY BE PERSISTENT.

I WISH FIVE YEARS LATER, FOUR TO FIVE YEARS LATER THAT I USE THOSE RESOURCES FOR MYSELF, FOR MY CHILDREN, AND FOR MY COMMUNITY.

THE THIRD POINT THAT I'D LIKE TO MAKE IS THAT AFTER FOUR YEARS MY DAUGHTER WAS ABLE TO SPEAK ABOUT THIS INCIDENT.

AND SHE DID IT IN A FIVE-MINUTE VIDEO.

I WISH I COULD SHOW YOU THE VIDEO BECAUSE I THINK IT'S VERY TELLING BUT IN ONE SLIDE SHE SAYS AN ACT OF KINDNESS CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF A LIFE.

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AND THAT'S SO VERY TRUE BECAUSE THE ACT OF HATRED THAT WAS COMMITTED AGAINST US THAT MY KIDS EXPERIENCED IN SCHOOL, IT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF CHANGING OUR LIVES.

IN SO MANY WAYS IT HAS.

MY CALL TO YOU IS TO REALIZE THAT YOU -- YOUR ACT OF KINDNESS TOWARDS PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMIZED BY HATE CRIME CAN HAVE AN EQUAL IMPACT.

AND WE HAVE A VOICE, AS PRIVATE CITIZENS, AS INDIVIDUALS, AND WE SHOULD -- WE SHOULD TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY AND EXERCISE THAT PRIVILEGE AS THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MENTIONED.

I MEAN, I'VE ALWAYS SEEN MYSELF AS AN AMERICAN BUT NOW I'M AN AMERICAN WHO'S GOING TO SPEAK UP.

NOT JUST FOR MYSELF BUT FOR EVERYONE ELSE.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HELLO.

HELLO.

I'M -- IS IT ON?

>> YEAH.

>> HELLO.

OKAY.

HELLO.

THANK YOU.

I'M HEDY WEINBERG AND I -- IN SOME WAYS I GUESS I'M FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN DOING THE WORK I'VE BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS AND I'M FEELING WE ARE MOVING FORWARD.

IT DOES GET -- IT DOES GET BETTER.

AND I'VE SEEN THE TYPES OF ASSAULTS THAT WERE DESCRIBED THIS MORNING AND THE TYPES OF HATE CRIMES WE'RE HEARING ABOUT ON THE PANEL TODAY ACROSS THE STATE.

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YES, DAVIDSON COUNTY IN SOME WAYS IS AN ISLAND BUT WE ARE SURROUNDED BY A RING OF COUNTIES WHERE THERE ARE VERY FEW PROTECTIONS AND THE SAME GOES OBVIOUSLY FROM EAST TO WEST TENNESSEE.

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE CHANGES IN THE STATE OF THE LAST 20 YEARS IS THAT WE HAVE A MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE PROFESSIONAL, STRONG LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM IN THIS STATE AND IT STARTS WITH THE F.B.I. AND IN THIS CITY WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE CHIEF ANDERSON LEAD A POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOU'RE A VICTIM OF HATE, OF A HATE CRIME, THAT YOU HAVE A RESPONSIVE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND YOU WILL HAVE A T.B.I. AND AN F.B.I. WHO WILL INVESTIGATE.

AND I WILL TELL YOU WHEN WE HEAR ABOUT ASSAULTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE WHERE PEOPLE ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO INVESTIGATE, ONE OF THE THINGS THE ACLU DOES IS ACTUALLY INTERVENE AND MAKE THOSE PHONE CALLS AND INITIATE THAT RELATIONSHIP SO THAT THE D.A. AND OTHERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE TO TAKE THESE COMPLAINTS SERIOUSLY.

THE COMPLAINTS ARE EVERYTHING FROM GAY COUPLE HOME BEING VANDALIZED TO GAY STUDENTS AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AND LATINO STUDENTS BEING BULLIED AND ASSAULTED JUST OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL AND IN THE SCHOOL.

CERTAINLY WE KNOW ABOUT THE STORY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD.

AND WHILE WE ARE FORTUNATE THIS HASN'T HAPPENED IN OUR STATE, THE ONLY BECAUSE OF THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE TWO ENSURE THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT STAYS STRONG.

I THINK IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE IN OUR OWN STATE LEGISLATURE WE'RE SEEING AN ASSAULT NOT ONLY ON OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES BUT ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND PEOPLE WHO PRACTICE DIFFERENT FAITHS THAN THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY.

AND IT'S IMPORTANT, AS DENNIS SHEPARD SAID, OUR VOICES ARE HEARD IN OUR LEGISLATURE.

JUST IN THE LAST TWO YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN AGGRESSIVE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES TO BASICALLY CRIMINALIZE THE PRACTICE OF ISLAM, TO TAKE AWAY THE RIGHTS AND BASED ON LOCAL COUNTIES TO EXPAND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, MOSQUES, AND NOW WE'RE DEALING WITH AN EFFORT BY SOME OF THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER CHALLENGING COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION BY PUTTING IN CERTAIN LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE MORE ON STABLINGS TO GETTING THE PROTECTION YOUNG PEOPLE NEED WHILE THEY'RE IN THE CLASSROOM.

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SO THESE ARE THE STORY THAT IS WE CAN BE TOLD AND MORE IMPORTANTLY YOUR VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND IN YOUR COMMITTEES.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE POWERFUL FOR LEGISLATOR, NOTHING MORE POWERFUL FOR ADVOCATES TO STAND STRONG WITH THE VOICES IN THE COMMUNITY AND SO THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HERE IS REALLY SO IMPORTANT.

I WANTED TO JUST END WITH JUST A BRIEF STORY THAT IN THE '80S WE WERE CONTACTED BY THE KLAN BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN DENIED A PERMIT TO [ INAUDIBLE ] IN TENNESSEE.

AND I KNEW WELL WHEN ONE PERSON AND I PICKED UP THE PHONE AND SAID HEDY WEINBERG AND THE MAN INTRODUCED HIMSELF, I KNEW HE HAD VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN TALK TO GO MS. WEINBERG BUT HE WAS GOING TO TALK TO THE ACLU, PROTECT HIS RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH, HIS HATEFUL SPEECH.

HE HAD TO GO TO COURT TO GET A PERMIT TO THE KLAN AND IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE ACLU WOULD SUPPORT THAT KIND OF HATEFUL SPEECH.

AS YOU'VE HEARD TIME AND TIME AGAIN ONE SPEECH IS ONLY AS PROTECTED AS THE NEXT PERSON'S SPEECH.

YOU CAN'T AND WE NEED TO CRIMINALIZE THE ACT AND CONDUCT BUT NOT THE SPEECH.

IT'S BETTER TO KNOW ABOUT THE SPEECH.

SO THE MORAL TO THIS STORY IS THE KLAN MARCHED, EVERYONE IN PULASKI STAYED HOME, THE COMMUNITY SHUT DOWN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

WHAT HAPPENED WEEKS LATER WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER TALKED TOGETHER BEFORE, THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THE WHITE COMMUNITY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SOME ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE CHAMBER CAME TOGETHER AND STOOD VERY TALL AND PRAYED AT A UNITED FRONT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SPEECH AND THEIR VOICES WERE BEING HEARD AND THAT THE HATEFUL SPEECH TOOK, YOU KNOW, THE BACKSEAT.

AND I THINK THAT'S A LESSON FOR ALL OF US, THAT OUR VOICES NEED TO BE THE VOICES OUT THERE THAT ARE BEING HEARD AND THAT ARE PERSUADING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PASS THE KIND OF LAWS WE NEED TO PROTECT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

THANK YOU.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

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FIRST I'D LIKE TO THANK THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE INVITATION BEING ABLE TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM HERE IN DAVIDSON COUNTY.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY, THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES AND MY ROLE IS SERVING THE PROGRAM MANAGER FOR TENNESSEE STATE SCHOOLS.

AND SO IN THAT ROLE I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS FOR OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ADDRESS SAFETY ISSUES.

SO SOME OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES RIGHT NOW, AS YOU ALL CAN IMAGINE, AND I'M SURE YOU HEAR ABOUT OUR BULLYING AND GANG PREVENTION INTERVENTION AND SO WITH THAT BEING SAID, IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN OUR LANGUAGE, IN OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE CONCERNED THAT PERTAINS TO HATE CRIMES.

BUT WHAT WE DO ADDRESS IS ASSAULTS, FIGHTING, SEXUAL ASSAULTS, AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS, SO ON AND SO FORTH.

SO WITH THAT INVESTIGATION PROCESS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS, IF YOU FIND OUT THAT A LAW HAS BEEN VIOLATED, STATE OR FEDERAL LAW AND AT THAT POINT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT IS CONTACTED AND THEN THEY INTERVENE.

SO FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE'RE INVESTIGATING A CASE OF BULLYING AND IT'S -- IT LOOKS AS THOUGH A -- IT CONSTITUTES A HATE CRIME THEN AT THAT TIME WE GET THE LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVED.

AND SO THAT BEING SAID, I'VE BEEN IN THIS POSITION A LITTLE OVER A YEAR.

ONE OF THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITIES I HAD WAS A TASK FORCE TEAM LAST YEAR WHICH WE LOOKED AT BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY AND REVISED IT.

REVAMPED THE WHOLE THING.

SO THIS IS A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO.

THE BOARD APPROVED IT LAST FEBRUARY.

SO ALMOST A YEAR AGO.

AND SINCE THEN OUR LEADERSHIP IN OUR DEPARTMENT, THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES AND SO SINCE HE'S TAKEN OFFICE HE LOOKED AT IT AGAIN AND SAID WE NEED TO COME BACK TOGETHER BECAUSE THE LANGUAGE WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH AND THERE WERE SOME OTHER THINGS THAT WE NEEDED TO

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ADDRESS AS FAR AS REPORTING PROCEDURES AND INVESTIGATING PROCEDURES AND ALSO PUT SOME THINGS IN PLACE THAT PROTECTS THOSE INDIVIDUALS THAT DO REPORT IT.

SO RIGHT NOW WE'RE -- YOU'LL HEAR FROM MR. DINWIDDIE ONE OF THE EXPERTS ON BULLYING AND HARASSMENT IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

HE'S GOING TO HELP US REVISE THE POLICY AND MAKE SURE THAT OUR STUDENTS -- OUR STAFF AND EVERYBODY ASSOCIATED TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

AWARENESS IS KEY.

BEING AWARE OF THE POLICY, BEING AWARE OF YOUR RIGHTS, AS STUDENTS, AS PARENTS WHO HAVE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, BEING AWARE OF THE DUE PROCESS.

YOU KNOW, IF YOUR CHILD IS -- IS BEING -- IS A VICTIM OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT, JUST MAKING SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THE PROCESS THAT NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE TO MAKE SURE THAT HE OR SHE GETS THE SUPPORT THAT THEY NEED.

AND SO THAT AND THE SECOND THING WHICH IS REALLY NOT SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MNPS RIGHT NOW, THIS IS MY PERSONAL OPINION, BUT SAYING THAT MORAL CHOICE PRECEDES INTELLECTUAL ORIENTATION.

IT'S SAYING WE CAN GET PEOPLE TO DO RIGHT OR BEFORE WE CHOOSE TO BEHAVE WE FIRST HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE BEHAVING RIGHT.

AND SO THE BIGGEST THING WE'RE SEEING IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, I'M SEEING IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM RIGHT NOW IS -- IT'S A LACK OF MORALITY.

AND SO THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW WHY YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP THOSE CHARACTERISTICS IS TO MODEL THEM.

SO THAT IS MY -- MY CALL TO EVERYONE IN HERE, TO MODEL WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE A CITIZEN WHO CARES FOR OTHER CITIZENS, A CITIZEN WHO HOLDS THE VALUES OF WHAT THIS COUNTRY IS ABOUT.

SO THANK YOU.

>> [OFF MIC].

IF YOU DON'T CALL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO KNOW.

AND I KNOW PEOPLE OF THIS FORUM PROBABLY WILL CALL THE POLICE, BUT YOU NEED TO GO BACK AND ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU'RE FROM -- THIS IS RINGING?

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ALL RIGHT.

ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU'RE FROM -- [ INAUDIBLE ].

ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE THAT YOU WORK WITH EVERY DAY, PEOPLE IN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS, GO AND TALK TO THE PEOPLE.

IF YOU WANT -- IN DAVIDSON COUNTY, IF YOU WANT TO ACTED ON BEHALF, IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOUR PLACE, WE SPOKE EARLIER, I'VE HAD TO GO TO -- A PERSON WITH THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES CALLED US AND WE WENT TO THAT PERSON'S HOUSE AND A WOMAN WAS THERE AND SHE WAS AFRAID TO CALL THE POLICE BECAUSE OF REPERCUSSIONS IN HER COMMUNITY.

GO BACK AND TALK TO THOSE.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE -- CALL THE POLICE, WE DO NOT KNOW --

IF YOU'RE A WITNESS, IF YOU LIVE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD AND YOU THINK SOMEBODY IS BEING A VICTIM OF ANY CRIME, NOT JUST HATE CRIME, CALL US.

WE'LL COME OUT.

MS. BLANCHE SAID EARLIER, IF YOU -- IF THE VICTIM DOES PERCEIVE TO BE A HATE CRIME, MAKE SURE YOU TELL US, BOX 15 WHICH I GET TO LOOK AT ON EVERY REPORT, IF THE VICTIM DOESN'T TELL US THEY PERCEIVE IT AS A HATE CRIME, IT'S HARD FOR US TO KNOW IF IT'S PERCEIVED AS A HATE CRIME BY THIS VICTIM.

YOU CAN CHECK YES, NO, OR UNKNOWN.

I GET EVERY ONE OF THEM THAT SAYS YES OR UNKNOWN.

I GET THOSE AND DETERMINE, LOOK AT THE FACTS OF THE CASE, TALK TO SOME VICTIMS.

IF WE HAVE A VICTIM TALK TO THE VICTIM AND GET THEIR PERCEIVED -- GET THEIR SIDE OF THE STORY, TOO.

JUST BECAUSE IT'S -- IF THEY LOOK LIKE AN OUTSIDER IT'S A HATE CRIME DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN THAT IT IS.

IT COULD BE A HATE CRIME RELATED BUT IT DOESN'T -- STRICTLY, IT HAS TO DO WITH THEIR MOTIVATION.

CALL US, GO BACK IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AND TELL THEM THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS FOR EVERYBODY HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO SUPPORT EVERYBODY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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THAT'S OUR JOB.

WE -- YOU KNOW, IT'S GOOD FOR ME TO COME TO FORUMS LIKE THIS BECAUSE I GREAT TO MEET PEOPLE I HAVEN'T MET BEFORE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD, FROM THE COMMUNITY, FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMMUNITIES THAT I CAN REACH OUT TO.

PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO CALL THE POLICE BUT SOMETIMES WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.

THEY CALL THE POLICE AND WE DON'T KNOW NECESSARILY WHO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SPEAK TO.

THESE FORUMS ARE GOOD FOR US, TOO.

SO I APPRECIATE THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION HAVING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME.

I DON'T HAVE ANY CARDS FOR YOU.

YOU CAN CALL ME, I'LL SIT AROUND AND TALK TO YOU THE REST OF THE DAY.

THANK YOU.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON. I'M RODGER DINWIDDIE, I'M THE DIRECTOR AT STARS.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE DO IS ADDRESS BULLYING THROUGH TRAINING AND CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY, THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND ALSO THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

I GUESS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY IS I DON'T KNOW MUCH BULLYING THAT IN FACT ISN'T HATE SPEECH.

WHICH SEEMS TO ME TO BE A REAL CORE ISSUE IN THE DISCUSSION THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

AND I THINK -- I'D LIKE TO SAY JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT THIS AND THEN A CALL, SO TO SPEAK, TO ACTION FOR ALL OF US AROUND THE ISSUE.

AND NUMBER ONE, IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO KNOW, SOMETHING THAT YOU ALLUDED TO, WE MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS BUT WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO WHEN IT COMES TO ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE.

BECAUSE THERE'S A GREAT MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN WHAT CONFLICT, JUST TEASING AND CONFLICT AND SO TO SPEAK ROUGH AND TUMBLE CONFLICT, IF YOU WILL, BETWEEN CHILDREN AND WHAT BULLYING IS.

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I THINK THERE'S AN ASSUMPTION PERHAPS IN THE PUBLIC'S MINDSET THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT BULLYING IS AND NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE.

I MEAN, JUST GETTING ACROSS THE STREET IN THE RAIN OVER THERE WAS SOME SORT OF SENSE OF CONFLICT JUST TO GET HERE, TO SIT DOWN.

CON -- ANYBODY MARRIED IN HERE?

[ LAUGHTER ]

CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE EVERY DAY.

BULLYING, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH CONFLICT.

CONFLICT IS A FORM OF PEER ABUSE.

WHAT CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE CRIMES OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL ABUSE BECAUSE ALL OF THOSE ARE ISSUES OF AN IMBALANCE OF POWER.

AND BULLYING IS IN FACT THAT ISSUE.

IT'S AN IMBALANCE OF POWER.

WHEN ANY GROUP OF INDIVIDUAL USES THAT POWER TO OVERCOME, STRESS OUT, INTIMIDATE, INFLICT HARM, AGGRESSIVELY ON A PERSON AND THEY DO IT OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN A RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH THAT IMBALANCE OF POWER IS PRESENT.

I THINK WE MAKE AN ASSUMPTION THAT EVERY EDUCATOR, AND I'M SPEAKING ONLY ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE, WHICH IS EDUCATION, THAT EVERY EDUCATOR SOMEHOW KNOWS THAT MAGICALLY.

WHEN IN FACT MOST EDUCATORS HAVE NOT BEEN TRAINED IN BEST PRACTICES IN BULLYING PREVENTION.

AND I WANT TO SAY ONE MORE THING ABOUT MOVING ON BEFORE THE DEFINITION IF I COULD AND I THINK THE OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN OCTOBER 2010 ISSUED PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT LETTER THAT'S BEEN ISSUED IN A GOOD NUMBER OF YEARS WHICH WAS THE DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER WITH TWO SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW-UP LETTERS IN DECEMBER AND APRIL OF 2011.

AROUND THE ISSUE OF WHAT IN FACT IS BULLYING AND WHEN DOES BULLYING TRIGGER OTHER STATUTES.

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AND IN FACT, BULLYING IS TECHNICALLY SPEAKING NOT A LEGAL TERM.

IT'S A POLICY ISSUE.

BUT TITLE VI, TITLE IX AND DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY ARE LEGAL ISSUES.

AND I WAS STUNNED AND I REMAIN STUNNED AND I AM AN EDUCATOR.

MY WIFE IS AN EDUCATOR, SO WHEN I SAY THIS I SPEAK VERY PERSONALLY.

IN MOST OF MY TRAINING EXPERIENCES, WHETHER IT'S HERE OR ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WHEN ASKED THE QUESTION BY ADD -- TWO ADMINISTRATORS AND RECENTLY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF DOING THAT WITH ALMOST 100 AND LESS THAN 6 PRINCIPALS HAD HEAD THE DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER.

TO ME THE ISSUE IS ONE OF TRUE EDUCATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT ABOUT WHAT BULLYING IS AND WHEN IT TAKES IT TO ANOTHER LEVEL.

BECAUSE AS YOU WELL SAID, YOU CAN'T TAKE A HANDLE A HATE CRIME IF IN FACT YOU DON'T KNOW IT IS AND I WOULD CONTEND THAT EDUCATORS, AGAIN, I AM ONE, MY WIFE IS ONE, DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BULLYING, TITLE VI, TITLE IX AND THE ISSUES OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY.

SO I THINK THAT'S A REAL CORE ISSUE.

THE OTHER THING THAT YOU ALLUDED TO IN YOUR PRESENTATION AT THE END WAS STATISTICS ABOUT BULLYING AND I THINK WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT HIGH SCHOOLS -- REMEMBER, THE WORST GRADE IN BULLYING ACTUALLY ACROSS THE COUNTRY STATISTICALLY IS FOURTH GRADE.

GOD HELP US, IN FOURTH GRADE IT'S A TOUGH YEAR.

AND THEN IT GETS PROGRESSIVELY UPS AND DOWNS ALONG THE WAY.

BUT WHEN IT GETS TO HIGH SCHOOL, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENS IS KIDS DON'T PHYSICALLY ANYMORE.

THEY DON'T HAVE TO BULLY PHYSICALLY.

AND THAT GOES TO THE WHOLE POINT OF WHAT BULLYING REALLY IS.

IT'S THAT EMOTIONAL FORM OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TERROR THAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEBODY FEELS INTIMIDATED AND AFRAID AND IN THE CASES THAT HAVE BEEN MENTIONED ALREADY, CERTAINLY IN THE CASE OF JACOB AND PHILLIP, NOTHING COULD BE WORSE

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THAN TO HAVE BEEN GAY, TO HAVE BEEN BULLIED AND NOT FEEL LIKE THERE WAS ANY PLACE AT ALL TO REALLY TURN TO FOR DEEP SUPPORT.

IT'S HORRENDOUS, DEVASTATING.

SO I THINK THE IMPORTANT PIECE TO REALIZE OUT OF DATA IS IN EVERY SCHOOL, AND IT'S CERTAINLY BEEN TRUE IN OUR RESEARCH AND THE LARGEST DATABASE IN THE WORLD, THAT WHEN ASKED THE QUESTION ON THE SURVEY WHAT DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU SEE SOMEBODY BEING BULLIED, THE ANSWER FROM KIDS IS ALMOST 80% SAY I FEEL SORRY OR A BIT SORRY AND WANT TO HELP.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT THEY DON'T -- THAT THEY FEEL THAT WAY.

THE PROBLEM IS DOES ANYBODY ACT ON THE FEELINGS?

AND TO ME, MY CALL TO ACTION IS THIS, IN A NO SNITCH CULTURE IN WHICH WE LIVE, THE NUMBER ONE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE SUCCESS OF ADDRESSING BULLYING IS IMMOBILIZING AND EMPOWERING THE WITNESSES AND BYSTANDERS TO BULLYING BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT THE LARGEST GROUP OF PEOPLE IN ANY POPULATION.

IF WE CAN MOBILIZE THAT CROWDS, PARTICULARLY STUDENTS, TO STEP FORWARD AND ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF BULLYING WE CAN REFORM AN ENVIRONMENT USING THOSE BEST PRACTICES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

I THINK THAT'S REALLY MY CALL, IS CAN WE IN FACT MOBILIZE THOSE KIDS WHO HATE IT AND DON'T WANT TO BE A PART OF IT.

>> MY NAME IS WALTER SEARCY.

I AM THE STATE CHAIRMAN OF THE TENNESSEE.

[OFF MIC]

OF THE NAACP, LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE.

[OFF MIC]

LET ME ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.

[OFF MIC]

HOW MANY FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT?

HOW MANY ARE FROM NGOS, [ INAUDIBLE ] THE SUBJECT TODAY?

HOW MANY PASTORS, PRIESTS, RABBIS, IMAMS ARE HERE TODAY?

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HOW MANY ARE HERE BECAUSE PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY HATE OR SOMEONE IN THEIR FAMILY OR CLOSE FRIEND OR RELATIVE THAT'S BEEN SO VICTIMIZED?

IN 1909 THE NAACP WAS FOUNDED AMONG OTHER THINGS PRINCIPALLY TO ADDRESS THE CRIME OF LYNCHING.

LYNCHING.

AND IT APPEARS TO MANY OF US -- IT APPEARS -- I MAY HAVE TURNED IT OFF.

YEAH, I MAY HAVE.

LET'S SEE.

BEEP, BEEP.

BEEP, BEEP.

ARE WE GOOD?

OKAY.

IT APPEARS TO MANY OF US THAT BULLYING AND ALL OF ITS MANIFESTATIONS, WHETHER IT'S AGAINST GAYS, WHETHER IT'S AGAINST RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, WHETHER IT'S AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITIES OR WHETHER IT'S AGAINST GENDER -- WHETHER IT'S GENDER-BASED, IS NOTHING BUT A MANIFESTATION OF LYNCHING.

AND WE SHOULD BE AS [ INAUDIBLE ] AS THE TERM LYNCHING IS TO ALL OF US, BULLYING IN ALL ITS FORMS SHOULD BE SO REPUGNANT.

AND IF IN FACT WE CAN DEMONIZE IT SUCH, AND THAT'S -- THAT'S NOT A TACTIC THAT IS ALWAYS HAS MERIT, BUT THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME THINGS WORTHY OF BEING DEMONIZED AND CLEARLY THE MANIFESTATIONS OF BULLYING, IF ANYTHING MERITS SUCH, THEN THAT, THOSE THINGS DO SO MERIT THAT.

WE HAVE TO MAKE IT UNCOOL TO BE A BULLY.

WE HAVE TO MAKE IT NOT THE POPULAR THING BECAUSE MOST BULLYING DOES NOT HAPPEN IN THE ABSTRACT.

IT'S NOT A ONE-ON-ONE KIND OF THING.

IT'S A GROUP THING, YOU KNOW.

AND I'M TRYING TO DEMONSTRATE TO MY PEOPLE, TO MY CREW, YOU KNOW, TO MY -- TO MY ASSOCIATES HOW TOUGH I AM AND HOW WE SHOULD PLY OUR ADVANTAGE AGAINST

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THESE PERSONS WHO OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT AS TOUGH AND THEREFORE MERIT THIS KIND OF TREATMENT.

AND, YOU KNOW, IT -- DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE CAN'T BE AT THE KITCHEN TABLE WHEN THESE ATTITUDES ARE DEVELOPED OR WE CAN'T BE IN THE LOCKER ROOM IN ALL CASES WE CAN'T BE ON THE PLAYGROUND, WE CAN'T BE, YOU KNOW, IN THE TAVERN, WHEREVER THESE THINGS MANIFEST THEMSELVES.

BUT WHAT WE CAN DO IS ATTEMPT TO MAKE IT AS UNCOMFORTABLE TO BE A BULLY AS IT IS FOR THE BULLIES TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE IT UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THEIR VICTIMS.

WHICH SUGGESTS THEN THAT IT MUST BECOME A MORE PROMINENT THEME FOR OUR COMMUNITY AGENDA.

THERE ARE A WHOLE MYRIAD OF THINGS THAT OCCURS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS THAT FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE NOT BEEN VICTIMIZED EASILY FIND IT JUST, YOU KNOW, NOT SOMETHING THAT WE'RE GOING TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME ADDRESSING.

BUT FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE SUBJECT TO THIS AND NOT JUST ONCE OR TWICE IN THEIR LIVES, I THINK ALL OF US HAVE BEEN SO VICTIMIZED ONCE OR TWICE IN OUR LIVES AT SOME POINT IN OUR CHILDHOOD AND HEAVEN FORBID MAYBE ONE OR TWO OF US WERE EVEN BULLIES OURSELVES, BUT WERE ABLE TO BREAK AWAY FROM WHATEVER THOSE TRADITIONS ARE AND DID NOT BECOME A PRACTICE OF OUR LIVES.

BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO REALLY ARE SUBJECT TO TERROR ON A REGULAR AND CONSISTENT BASIS.

AND THERE ARE SOME OF NEWS THIS ROOM WHO EXPERIENCE THIS THING ON A REPETITIVE BASIS.

FOR THOSE PERSONS HERE IT'S NOT JUST A CASUAL EXPERIENCE, THE SOMETHING THEY EXPERIENCE ON A ROUTINE BASIS, AND THAT INTERFERES WITH MY QUALITY OF LIFE BECAUSE THAT'S A DEFICIENCY THEN IN THE FABRIC OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE SUCH THAT IT'S -- IT'S AS INTOLERABLE FOR ME AS IT IS FOR THEM BECAUSE WE COULD BE SPENDING OUR TIMES ENRICHING ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO OURSELVES RATHER THAN FIGHTING OFF THESE BULLIES THAT WE'RE IDENTIFYING TODAY.

SO LET ME JUST SUMMARIZE BY SAYING THAT LYNCHING IS REPUGNANT.

BULLYING IS LYNCHING.

BULLYING IS REPUGNANT.

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>> WE WANT TO THANK WALTER SEARCY WHO JOINED US LONG LEGAL DISTINGUISHED LEGAL HISTORY IN OUR CITY AND THANK YOU FOR COMING AND JOINING US ON THIS PANEL, MR. SEARCY.

AT THIS POINT WE'D LIKE TO INVITE FROM THE AUDIENCE TO ASK ANY QUESTION THAT THEY HAVE.

WE'LL HAVE ABOUT TEN MINUTES, 15 MINUTES FOR QUESTIONS.

IF PANELISTS COULD IDENTIFY MAYBE TWO MICS ON THE TABLE THAT WORK.

I THINK ALL OF THEM ARE SUPPOSED TO WORK.

I WAS TOLD BY T.S.U. THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF A DELAY.

BUT IF WE CAN IDENTIFY TWO WORKING MICS, ROBERT WOULD YOU GRAB ONE AND HANDLE THAT ONE, ROBERT?

WILL YOU GRAB ONE OF THE MICS?

YES.