

**Hate, Violence, and Death
on Main Street USA:
A Report on Hate Crimes
and Violence Against
People Experiencing Homelessness
2005**



February 2006

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INTRODUCTION

In February, Maria Catherine King, a homeless woman of less than 100 pounds who had been struggling with mental illness, was brutally beaten and killed in Berkeley, California. The suspects were two 18 year-old males. The victim, 49-year-old King, a legal writer and advocate, was known for giving out cookies, free legal advice and a shoulder to cry on. The attack began as an apparent argument over “dumpster diving.” A witness testified that he saw two hooded figures kicking something “as if they were kicking a soccer ball as hard as they could.” The beating lasted about 15 seconds, and as the two attackers walked away, the witness testified, one turned back, got a running start and “jumped on the object with both feet.”

In May, in Holly Hill, Florida, five teenagers charged with killing a homeless man said they did it “for fun” because they “needed something to do.” The five teens left the scene and returned numerous times to beat Michael Roberts, 53, with their fists, tree branches, and a large log.

In August, in Los Angeles, two 19-year-old men, allegedly inspired by the “Bumfights” video, took to the streets, hitting sleeping homeless people with aluminum baseball bats and leaving an elderly man in critical condition.

Sadly, these gruesome accounts are just a few of many that demonstrate the hate/violence faced by people experiencing homelessness each year. The following report documents 84 hate crimes and violent acts that occurred in 2005, collected from newspapers and reports across the country. The narratives bring to light the discrimination and senseless violence faced daily by so many of our country’s homeless citizens.

Samplings of the headlines in the case narrative section of this annual report say it all:

- **Sleeping Homeless Attacked with Bats** (August)
- **Two Teens Accused of Killing Homeless Man Said They Did It for Fun** (May)
- **Trooper Charged with Killing of Homeless Man** (May)
- **Police: Homeless Man Burned at Crowd’s Urging** (September)
- **Man Allegedly Raped Homeless Woman** (September)
- **Agencies Probe Guards’ Dumping of Homeless Man** (April)
- **Homeless Violence Common** (June)
- **Authorities Say Homeless Lured into Alleged “Modern-Day Slavery”** (June)
- **Teens Arrested in Slaying of Homeless Man** (November)
- **Orlando Officer Charged in Violent Beating of Homeless Man** (November)
- **Teens Charged in Arson Death of Homeless Man** (October)
- **Homeless Man Recovering After Cook Paid Him \$5 to Drink Toxic Cleaner** (December)

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The main objective of this report is to educate lawmakers, advocates, and the general public about the problem of hate crimes and violence against homeless people in order to instigate change and ensure protection of civil rights for everyone, regardless of their economic circumstances or housing status. As part of its mission, the National Coalition for the Homeless is committed to creating the systemic and attitudinal changes necessary to end homelessness. A major component of these changes must include the societal guarantee of safety and protection and a commitment by lawmakers to combat the hate crimes and violent acts against people who experience homelessness.

THE REPORTS

Over the past seven years (1999-2005), advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the country have seen an alarming, nationwide epidemic in reports of homeless men, women and even children being killed, beaten, and harassed. In response to these concerns, the National Coalition for the Homeless has produced seven reports documenting these acts.

- 1999:** *No More Homeless Deaths! Hate Crimes: A Report Documenting Violence Against Men and Women Homeless in the U.S.*
- 2000:** *A Report of Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Who Are Homeless in the United States in 2000*
- 2001:** *Hate. A Compilation of Violent Crimes Committed Against Homeless People in the U.S. in 2001*
- 2002:** *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 1999-2002*
- 2003:** *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2003*
- 2004:** *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness 2004*
- 2005:** This report, *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2005*

This latest report continues to maintain the same goals and objectives as in the previous ones:

1. To compile the incidents of hate crimes and violence that NCH has received and reviewed in order to document this alarming trend against people who experience homelessness.
2. To make lawmakers and the public aware of this serious issue.
3. To recommend proactive measures to be taken.

HATE CRIMES

The term “hate crime” generally conjures up images of cross burnings and lynchings, swastikas on Jewish synagogues, and horrific murders of gays and lesbians. In 1968, the U.S. Congress defined a hate crime, under federal law, as a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property that is the object of the crime, because of their race, color or national origin (Title 18 U.S.C Section 245). The law mandated that the government must prove both that the crime occurred because of a victim’s membership in a designated group and because the victim was engaged in certain specified federally-protected activities — such as serving on a jury, voting, or attending public school.¹

Hate crimes are commonly called bias-motivated crimes, referring to the prejudice or partiality of the perpetrator against the victim’s real or perceived grouping or circumstance. Most hate crimes are committed not by organized hate groups, but by individual citizens who harbor a strong resentment against a certain group of people.

Some are “mission offenders,” who believe they are on a mission “to cleanse the world of a particular evil.”² Others are “scapegoat offenders,” who project their resentment toward the growing economic power of a particular racial or ethnic group through violent actions. Still others are “thrill seekers” — those who take advantage of a vulnerable and disadvantaged group in order to satisfy their own pleasures.³ Thrill-seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of violence against homeless people.

In documenting hate crimes and violence against homeless people, and the data and documentation used for this report, NCH relies on news reports and information relayed to us by homeless shelters around the country. Although NCH acts as the nationwide repository of hate crimes/violence against homeless people, there is no systematic method of collecting and documenting such reports. Many of these hate crimes and/or violent acts go unpublicized and/or unreported, thereby making it difficult to assess the true magnitude of the problem.

Often, homeless people do not report crimes committed against them because of mental health issues, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, past incidents, or frustration with the police. Some cases this year were also omitted because the victims were found beaten to death, but no suspects could be identified. In addition, the report does not take into account the large number of sexual assaults, especially against homeless women.

LEGISLATION

Subsequently, federal bias crime laws enacted have provided additional coverage. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 (HCSA) mandates the Justice Department to collect data from law enforcement agencies about “crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based upon race,

¹ Source: Anti-Defamation League, http://www.adl.org/legislative_action/hatecrimes_briefing.html

² Source: “Responding to Hate Crime” U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc

³ Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, www.ojp.usdoj.gov

religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.”⁴ The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, enacted as a section of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, defines a hate crime as “a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property that is the object of the crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person.” This measure only applies to, inter alia, attacks and vandalism that occur in national parks and on federal property.⁵

The most recent piece of legislation, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005, was introduced in the U.S. House (H.R.2662), and in the U.S. Senate (S.1145) in the 109th Congress. In September 2005, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 was added to the Children’s Safety Act of 2005 (H.R. 3132) as an amendment. H.R. 3132, including the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005, passed the U.S. House of Representatives with 371 Members voting in favor of the passage. On September 15, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which has broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, “authorizes the Attorney General to provide technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or other assistance in the criminal investigation or prosecution of any crime that: (1) constitutes a crime of violence under Federal law or a felony under State or Indian tribal law; and (2) is motivated by prejudice based on the race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of the victim or is a violation of the hate crimes laws of the State or tribe.” There is currently no federal criminal prohibition against violent crimes directed at individuals because of their housing status.

The National Coalition for the Homeless aims to include housing status in the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662 and S. 1445) and in future pieces of legislation. Through the inclusion of housing status, hate crimes and violent acts toward people experiencing homelessness will be more appropriately handled and prosecuted. Additionally, if victims know that a system is in place to prosecute such crimes, they are more likely to come forward to report these crimes. People who are forced to live and sleep on the streets for lack of an appropriate alternative are in an extremely vulnerable situation, and it is unacceptable that hate crime prevention laws do not protect them.

Also noteworthy is the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 259), which was introduced into the 109th Congress by Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas and has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. This bill is an abridged and slightly altered version of H.R. 2662 and S.1145.

⁴ Source: Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, www.civilrights.org

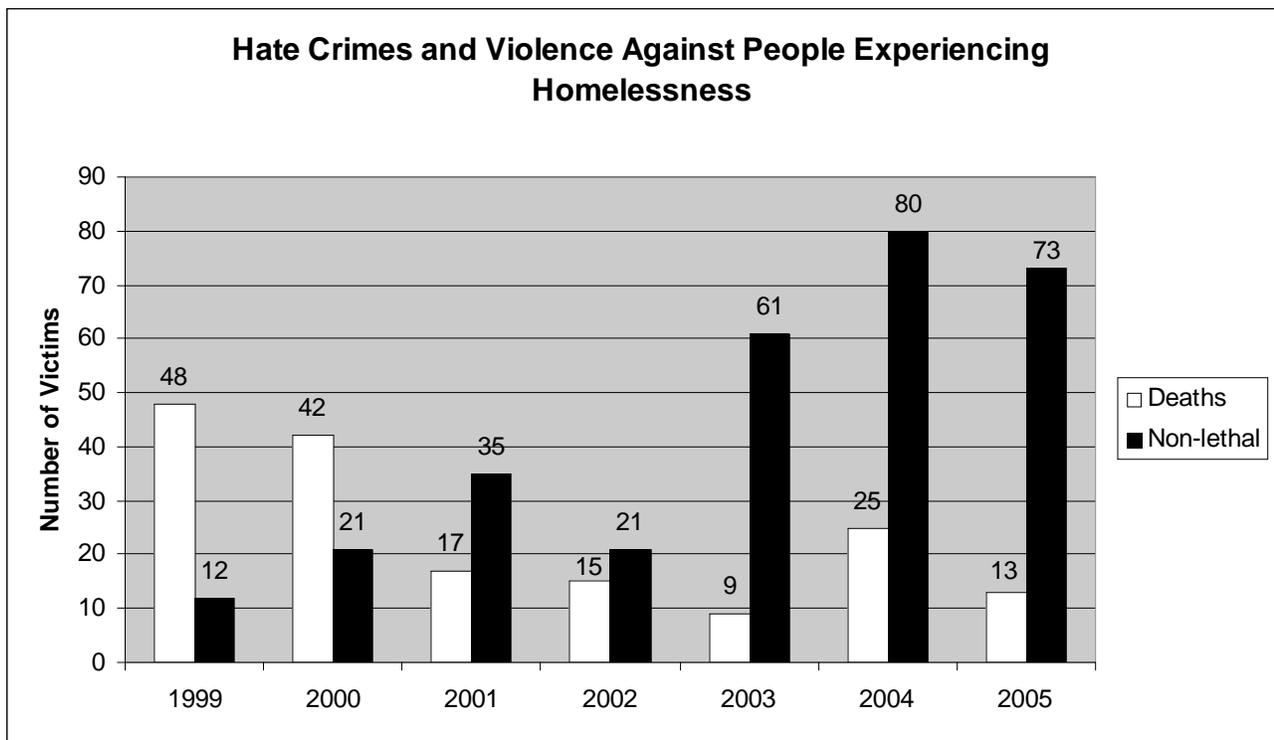
⁵ Source: Anti-Defamation League
Source: www.Thomas.loc.gov

**Report on Hate Crimes and Violence
Against People Experiencing
Homelessness in 2005**

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HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE DATA OVER A SEVEN YEAR PERIOD (1999-2005)

Advocates, homeless shelter workers, and the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) all began to recognize that reports of hate crimes and violent acts against people experiencing homelessness were increasing with frequency and brutality. As a result, in 1999, the NCH began publishing annual reports documenting hate crimes and violent attacks against people experiencing homelessness. These annual reports have not only served to document the number of deaths and non-lethal attacks, but have included the individual stories of the victims of these crimes. This annual study makes evident the great number of crimes as well as the large geographic area in which they occur.



Total number of violent acts over 7 years: **472**

Total number of deaths over 7 years: **169**

Total number of non-lethal attacks over 7 years: **303**

Number of cities where crimes occurred over 7 years: **165**

Number of states where crimes occurred over 7 years: **42 states plus Puerto Rico**

Age ranges of the accused/convicted: **from 11 to 75 years of age**

Age ranges of the victims: **from 4 months old to 74 years of age**

Gender of victims: male: **358** female: **48**

SUMMARY OF HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE DATA IN 2005:

Total number of violent acts: **86**

Total number of deaths: **13**

Total number of non-lethal attacks: **73**

Number of cities where crimes occurred: **38**

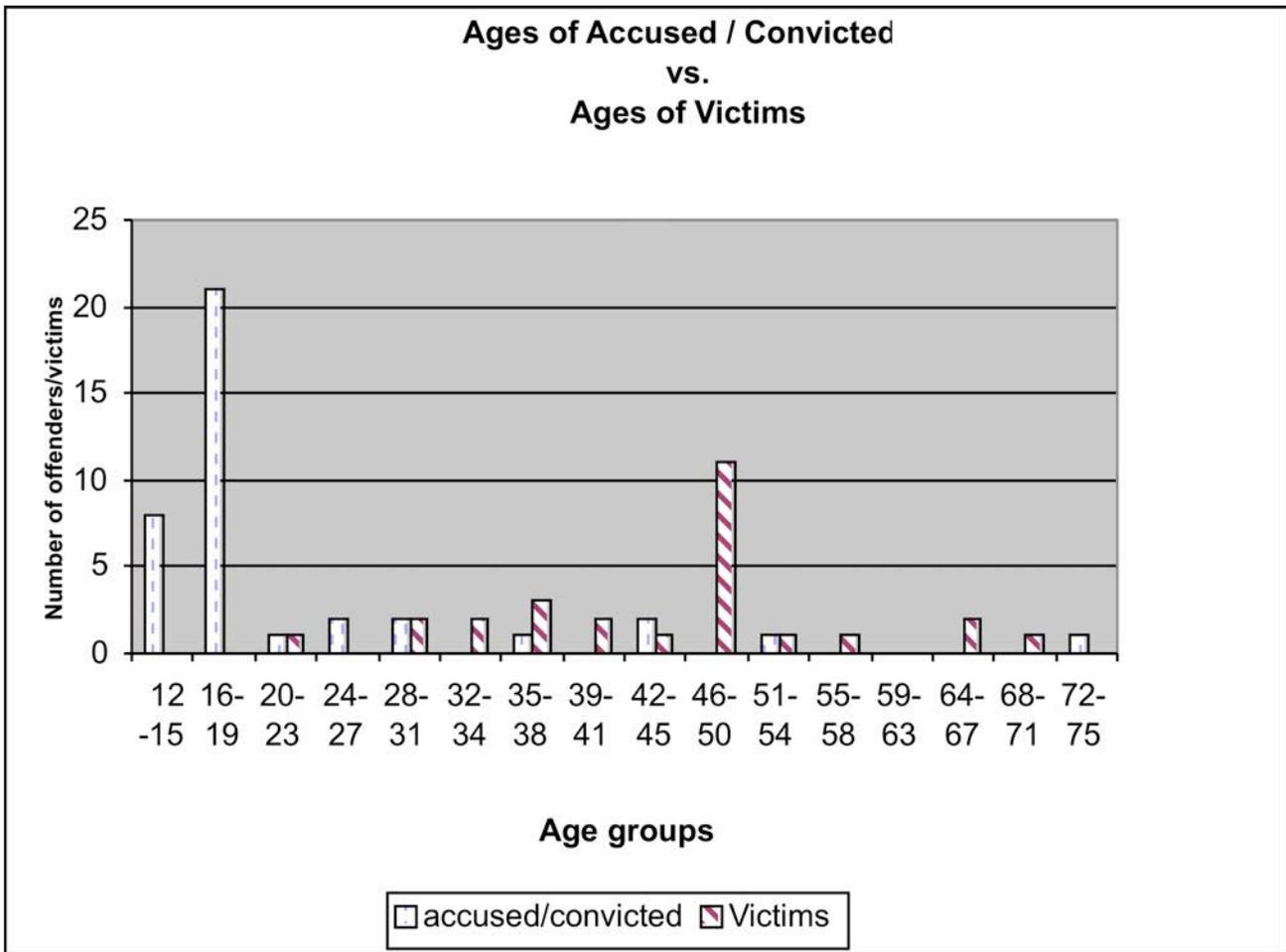
Number of states where crimes occurred: **22 states plus Puerto Rico**

Age ranges of the accused/convicted: **from 13 to 75 years of age; 13, 14 (four), 15 (three), 16, 17 (five), 18 (seven), 19 (eight), 22, 25 (two) 29, 30, 35, 45 (two), 52, 75**

Age ranges of the victims: **from 22 to 70 years of age;**

22, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40 (two), 44, 46 (two), 47, 49 (four), 50 (four), 53, 55, 65 (two), 70

Gender of victims: male: **62** female: **4**



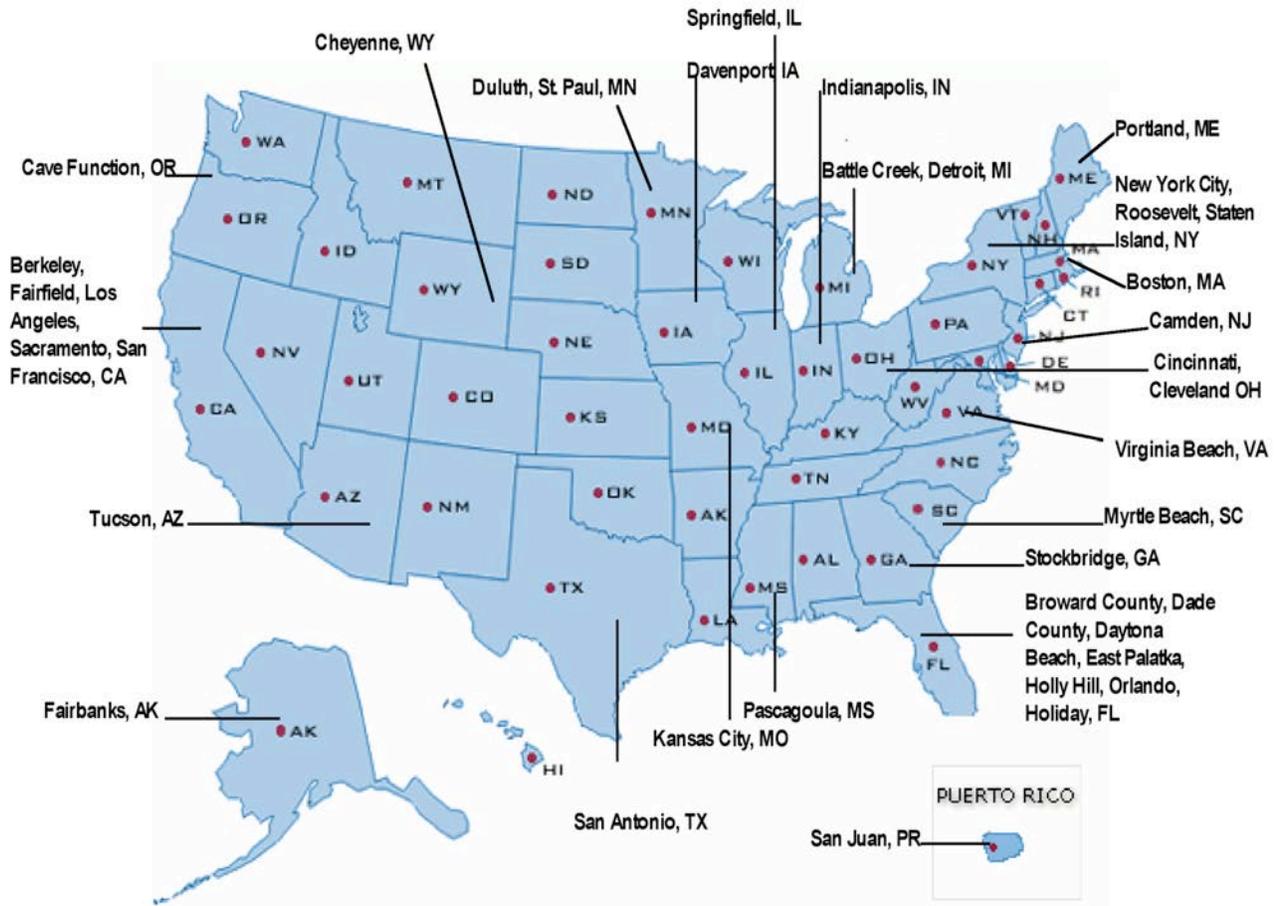
CITIES/COUNTIES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2005:

Battle Creek, MI	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Berkeley, CA	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Boston, MA	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Broward County, FL	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Camden, NJ	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Cave Junction, OR	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Cheyenne, WY	2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Cincinnati, OH	2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Cleveland, OH	2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Dade County, FL	1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Davenport, IA	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Daytona Beach, FL	1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Detroit, MI	2 separate incidents resulting in 1 death and 1 non-lethal act.
Duluth, MN	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
East Palatka, FL	1 incident resulting in 24 non-lethal acts.
Fairbanks, AK	3 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.
Fairfield, CA	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Holiday, FL	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Holly Hill, FL	3 related incidents resulting in 1 death.
Indianapolis, IN	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Kansas City, MO	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Los Angeles, CA	2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Myrtle Beach, SC	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
New York, NY	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Orlando, FL	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Pascagoula, MS	1 incident resulting in 6 non-lethal acts.
Portland, ME	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Roosevelt, NY	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Sacramento, CA	5 separate incidents resulting in 5 non-lethal acts.
San Antonio, TX	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
San Francisco, CA	5 separate incidents resulting in 7 non-lethal acts.
San Juan, PR.	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Springfield, IL	1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Staten Island, NY	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Stockbridge, GA	1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
St. Paul, MN	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Tucson, AZ	1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Virginia Beach, VA	1 incident resulting in 1 death.

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CITIES/STATES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2005



STATES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2005:

- AK** 3 separate incidents in 1 city (Fairbanks) resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.
- AZ** 1 incident in 1 city (Tucson) resulting in 1 death.
- CA** 14 separate incidents in 5 cities (Berkeley, Fairfield, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco) resulting in 1 death and 15 non-lethal acts.
- FL** 9 separate incidents in 7 cities (Broward County, Dade County, Daytona Beach, East Palatka, Holly Hill, Holiday, Orlando) resulting in 1 death and 31 non-lethal acts.
- GA** 1 incident in 1 city (Stockbridge) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- IL** 1 incident in 1 city (Springfield) resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
- IN** 1 incident in 1 city (Indianapolis) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- IA** 1 incident in 1 city (Davenport) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- ME** 1 incident in 1 city (Portland) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- MA** 1 incident in 1 city (Boston) resulting in 1 death.
- MI** 3 separate incidents in 2 cities (Battle Creek, Detroit) resulting in 2 deaths and 1 non-lethal act.
- MN** 2 incidents in 2 cities (Duluth, St. Paul) resulting in 2 deaths.
- MS** 1 incident in 1 city (Pascagoula) resulting in 6 non-lethal acts.
- MO** 1 incident in 1 city (Kansas City) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- NJ** 1 incident in 1 city (Camden) resulting in 1 death.
- NY** 3 separate incidents in 3 cities (New York City, Roosevelt, Staten Island) resulting in 2 deaths and 1 non-lethal act.
- OH** 4 separate incidents in 2 cities (Cincinnati, Cleveland) resulting in 4 non-lethal acts.
- OR** 1 incident in 1 city (Cave Junction) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- PR** 1 incident in 1 city (San Juan) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- SC** 1 incident in 1 city (Myrtle Beach) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
- TX** 1 incident in 1 city (San Antonio) resulting in 1 death.
- VA** 1 incident in 1 city (Virginia Beach) resulting in 1 death.
- WY** 2 separate incidents in 1 city (Cheyenne) resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS AND NON-LETHAL ACTS 2005



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION:

The National Coalition for the Homeless recommends that the following actions be taken:

1. A **public statement** by the U.S. Department of Justice acknowledging that hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness is a serious national trend.
2. The Justice Department would **issue guidelines** for local police on how to investigate and work with people experiencing homelessness based on recommendations from the National Coalition for the Homeless. The Justice Department would recommend improvements to state law on how to better protect against violence directed against people experiencing homelessness, including tougher penalties.
3. A **database** to be maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice, in cooperation with the National Coalition for the Homeless, to track hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness.
4. **Inclusion of housing status** in the pending state and federal hate crimes legislation. Pending federal bill is the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662 in the U.S. House of Representatives; S.1145 in the U.S. Senate--109th Congress).
5. **Awareness training** at police academies and departments nationwide for trainees and police officers on how to deal effectively and humanely with people experiencing homelessness in their communities.
6. **Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureaus** (made up of homeless and formerly homeless people) become established in communities around the country. Speakers would visit both public and private schools in the community for the purposes of information and education. For more help and technical assistance in establishing a Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau in your community, contact Michael O'Neill at: Ph. (202) 462-4822 x20; Email: moneill@nationalhomeless.org, or visit <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/faces>
7. A **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) study** into the nature and scope of hate crimes and/or violent acts and crimes that occur against people experiencing homelessness. This proposed study will address the following:
 - Causes of hate crimes/violence.
 - Circumstances that contribute to or were responsible for the perpetrators' behavior.
 - Beliefs held by the perpetrators of these crimes and how their beliefs have changed since conviction.
 - Thoughts and advice from the perpetrators to others who are considering hate crimes/violence against the homeless population.
 - Community education, prevention and law enforcement strategies.

MODEL LEGISLATIVE/ORGANIZING/PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS IN CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA AND MAINE:

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

Reports done by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the Department of Justice about hate crimes against homeless people prompted the California State Legislature to take action.

Senate Bill 1234, which was introduced in February of 2004 by State Senator Kuehl, became public law in September of the same year and went into effect in July of 2005. It is now California Penal Code 13519.64.

This law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards to develop a two-hour telecourse to be made available to all law enforcement agencies in California on crimes against homeless people and how to deal effectively and humanely with homeless people, including those with disabilities. The telecourse is to include information on multi-mission criminal extremism, which includes crimes committed in whole or in part because of the victims' actual or perceived homelessness. In developing the telecourse, the commission is to consult subject-matter experts including, but not limited to, homeless and formerly homeless persons in California, service providers and advocates for homeless people in California, experts on the disabilities that homeless people commonly suffer, the California Council of Churches, the National Coalition for the Homeless, the Senate Office of Research, and the Criminal Justice Statistics Center of the Department of Justice.

FLORIDA LEGISLATION CREATES BILL TO PROTECT HOMELESS

Summary of Florida Bill HB 809- Assault or Battery on Homeless Persons

Introduction

In what one may assume is a positive response to the recent crimes against the homeless caught on surveillance tape in Florida, State Representatives Priscilla Taylor (D-Riviera Beach) and Ari Porth (D-Coral Springs) have proposed legislation that would make it a crime to commit assault or battery upon a homeless person.

Summary of Bill

If one commits aggravated battery or aggravated assault upon a homeless person, *regardless of whether the perpetrator of the acts is aware of the housing status of the victim*, (emphasis added by National Coalition for the Homeless) then they will face:

1. A minimum of three years in jail.
2. A maximum fine of \$10,000
3. Restitution to the victim of the offense
 - a. This seems to be at the discretion of the judge, and allows the judge to give his/her subjective opinion as to the punishment of the perpetrator of the act.
4. Performance of up to 500 hours of community service.

5. Restitution to the victim and performance of 500 hours of community service may not serve as a substitute for a fine and time served in jail.
1. When a person commits assault or battery upon a homeless person, *regardless of whether the perpetrator of the act is aware of the housing status of the victim*, (emphasis added by National Coalition for the Homeless) then the charge of the crime will move up a “degree.” For instance
 - a. **Aggravated battery**, when committed upon a homeless person will change from a 2nd degree to a 1st degree felony.
 - b. **Aggravated assault**, when committed upon a homeless person will change from a 3rd degree felony to a 2nd degree felony.
 - c. **Battery**, when committed upon a homeless person will change from a 1st degree misdemeanor to a 3rd degree felony.
 - d. **Assault**, when committed upon a homeless person will change from a 2nd degree misdemeanor to a 1st degree misdemeanor.

The bill sponsor hopes that it will be enacted on October 1, 2006.

HB 809**FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES****2006**

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to assault or battery on homeless persons; creating s. 784.0815, F.S.; providing a definition; providing a minimum sentence for a person convicted of an aggravated assault or aggravated battery upon a homeless person; providing for reclassification of certain offenses when committed against homeless persons; providing that adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence shall not be suspended, deferred, or withheld for such offenses; providing an effective date.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 784.0815, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

784.815 Assault or battery on homeless persons. –

- (1) For purposes of this section, the term “homeless” shall have the same meaning as provided in s. 420.621.
- (2) A person who is convicted of an aggravated assault or aggravated battery upon a homeless person shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 3 years and fined not more than \$10,000 and shall also be ordered by the sentencing judge to make restitution to the victim of the offense and to perform up to 500 hours of community service work. Restitution and community service work shall be in addition to any fine or sentence that may be imposed and shall not be in lieu thereof.
- (3) Whenever a person is charged with committing an assault or aggravated assault or battery or aggravated battery upon a homeless person, regardless of whether he or she knows or had reason to know the housing status of the victim, the offense for which the person is charged shall be reclassified as follows:
 - (a) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.
 - (b) In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.
 - (c) In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.
 - (d) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 948.01, adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence shall not be suspended, deferred, or withheld.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2006.

MAINE: STATE TAKES ACTION AGAINST HATE CRIMES

As the result of a long-term organizing campaign by the Preble Street Consumer Advocacy Project (a Portland-based group led by formerly homeless people), the State of Maine is among the first in the U.S. to take decisive action in an attempt to end the growing trend of bias motivated crime against its homeless population. In the spring of 2005, the Maine Legislature passed, and Governor John Baldacci signed, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Crimes Against Homeless People.” The National Coalition for the Homeless recognizes this as an important step in the fight against hate crimes/violent crimes against homeless people. The following report contains reviews of the incidents of hate crimes that have occurred in Maine in 2004, as well as a summary of the new legislation.

Bias Motivated Crime in Maine

In 2005, the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence published a study, “Homeless and Hated: Bias Motivated Violence, Degradation and Discrimination Against Maine’s Homeless.” The study was based on interviews with 138 homeless and formerly homeless individuals. These interviewees described 60 crimes motivated by homeless bias that had occurred in recent years. In these cases, the attacker manifested bias either by using anti-homeless slurs or attacking someone who was identifiable as homeless (camping, panhandling, etc.).

Following are excerpts from several of those incidents.

- A homeless man in Bangor saw four or five guys, one of whom was beating up a woman. He stepped in to protect the woman and they “turned on him,” beating him very badly. Once they knocked him down, they continued to kick him. While they were beating him up, they called him, “Hope House trash” (Hope House is one of the agencies that serve homeless people in the area). He was bleeding profusely after the attack and taken to the hospital, where his head injuries required staples.
- A homeless man in Portland occasionally spent time with a group of local teens. One day they hit him in the head with an umbrella and split his head open. The man’s girlfriend (also homeless) asked the teens why they did it, and they said, “Because we can; because you’re homeless.” The man required a blood transfusion.
- A homeless man was sleeping under the Casco Bay Bridge in Portland when two “skinheads” in their late teens approached him and asked him if he was a cop. He told them that of course he was not, and made some joking remark. They left and he lay down in his sleeping bag. The two men returned later and stabbed him twice in the shoulder blade and then left. He finally went to the emergency room after he was unable to stop the bleeding.
- As a homeless woman left her camp in Portland, a teen ran up behind her and hit her in the head with a metal pipe.
- A homeless man was walking at night in Bangor with a bag of cans over his shoulder. A van drove by and they shot him with a paintball gun.

THE LEGISLATION

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Crimes Against People Who Are Homeless.

The bill made the following changes to the laws:

1. It required Maine's Attorney General to convene a task force to examine the advisability of implementing aggravating sentencing factors for crimes against people who are homeless. This group is currently (January 2006) returning to the Maine Legislature with a recommendation to add a crime victim's homelessness to the factors that a court may take into consideration in sentencing.
2. It requires that the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy include in law enforcement training programs training aimed specifically at reducing barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involved victims or witnesses who are homeless.
3. It directs the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General to review the relationship between law enforcement agencies and people who are homeless and explore methods of improving that relationship.

Sources:

Preble Street Consumer Advocacy Project, P.O. Box 1459, Portland, ME 04104. Written and verbal correspondence. 2005-2006.

Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence. *Homeless and Hated: Bias Motivated Violence, Degradation and Discrimination Against Maine's Homeless*. February 10, 2005.

121st Maine State Legislature. *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Crimes Against Homeless People*. 2005.

CHAPTER 393

H.P. 1170 - L.D. 1659

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Crimes against People
Who Are Homeless**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2804-C, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Training regarding people who are homeless. The board shall include in the basic law enforcement training program a block of instruction aimed specifically at reducing barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless.

Sec. 2. Required recertification law enforcement training. The Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy shall include requirements in its next available schedule of recertification training for all law enforcement officers a block of instruction aimed specifically at reducing barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless. The board shall thereafter determine quadrennially whether further training in the next available schedule of recertification training is necessary as a refresher or to incorporate improved procedures or practices demonstrated to reduce barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless.

Sec. 3. Relationship between law enforcement agencies and homeless. The Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General shall review the relationship between law enforcement agencies and people who are homeless and shall explore methods of encouraging law enforcement agencies in communities with significant homeless populations or that have homeless shelters within their areas of jurisdiction to take concrete and meaningful steps to improve relations with people who are homeless and their advocates. As part of their review, the commissioner and the Attorney General shall consider ways to encourage regular meetings between law enforcement officers and advocates, representatives of the homeless community and people who are homeless to discuss issues of concern to the homeless community, the status of pending cases when appropriate and issues raised by the law enforcement agency.

The commissioner and the Attorney General shall report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature on the results of their review and the status of the relationship between law enforcement agencies and people who are homeless.

Sec. 4. Working group regarding aggravating sentencing factors for crimes against persons who are homeless. The Office of the Attorney General shall convene a working group to examine the advisability of implementing aggravating sentencing factors for crimes against people who are homeless. The Office of the Attorney General shall invite members of the judicial branch, representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, representatives from at least 2 district attorneys' offices and any other parties the Office of the Attorney General considers appropriate to participate in the working group. No later than January 15, 2006, the working group shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Upon review of the findings, the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety may report out implementing legislation, if necessary.

CASE DESCRIPTIONS BY MONTH, DATE, AND CITY IN 2005:

January

Pascagoula, Mississippi

Attack Leads to Home

January 9: Matthew Allen Barnstaple, 22, was arrested April 14th in Old Town, FL for a homeless beating that resulted in breaking his arm and leg. He is also implicated in burning the tent camp where the victim resided.

Paul Huff, who was attacked in Pascagoula, is getting back on his feet with help from the people of Jackson County.

Weeks before, Paul Huff and five other homeless people were attacked as they returned to their campsite.

After the attack the community came together to support Huff, donating clothes, blankets, and money after Huff's attackers burned everything he owned, including his tent.

Several Jackson County businessmen have also come together and are giving Huff a home.

Sources: WLOX-ABC 13 "Homeless Man Given Home" 8 February 2005. [Sun Herald](#) "Assault Suspect Arrested in Florida." 14 April 2005.

February

New York, New York

75-year-old stabs homeless man with sword cane

February 2: An impatient 75-year-old East Village man stabbed a homeless man in the throat yesterday after twisting apart a walking cane, which concealed a long sword, cops and witnesses said.

Eugene Carlson allegedly attacked George Devol with the 22-inch blade after the homeless man blocked a narrow path along the snow-covered, trash-strewn sidewalk on E. Ninth St. and refused to budge.

As several horrified churchgoers looked on, Carlson hacked into Devol's neck with his weapon and nearly severed the victim's jugular vein, police said.

"The old man was all confused," said the witness. "He was in a daze. He didn't know what he had done. You could tell."

Devol, 30, who had just left church, was in good spirits about getting a job at Con Edison before he was attacked, friends said.

Devol was rushed to Bellevue Hospital where he remained in critical but stable condition. Authorities said that Carlson was charged with first-degree assault and criminal possession of a weapon.

Source: New York Daily News "75-year-old Stabs Homeless Man with Sword Cane." 2 February 2005

Berkeley, California

Homeless woman brutally slain

February 8: Maria Catherine King, a familiar face on Berkeley's University Avenue, as well as a legal writer and advocate, could be counted on for cookies, free legal advice, or a shoulder to cry on until two young men kicked her head in and killed her on February 8th, 2005.

Tiny, less than 100 pounds and struggling with mental illness, King predicted she'd never live to see 50 years of age. In February, barely a month into her 49th year, death came at the hands of two youth behind a second-hand clothing store.

A witness later told a courtroom that he saw two hooded figures kicking something "as if they were kicking a soccer ball as hard as they could." The beating lasted about 15 seconds and as the two attackers walked away, the witness testified, one turned back, got a running start, and "jumped on the object with both feet."

Dependent on life support, King died twelve days later in hospital. The cause of death was determined to be blunt trauma to the head, spurred by an argument over “dumpster diving.” Police believe a total of four people were involved in the attack. Doctors said the beating was so bad that her brain shifted 5 centimeters.

Both suspects are 18-year-old males. The first suspect, Jarell Maurice Johnson from San Leandro, was arrested around the corner from the crime with blood on his shoes and faces a murder charge. Police have quoted him as saying “I really kicked her ass.”

The second, Derell Morgan of Berkeley, was arrested later in May and held without bail at Santa Rita Jail.

Sources: [San Mateo County Times](#) “Homeless Woman Dies From Beating” 23 February 2005. [San Francisco Chronicle](#) “Suspect Sought in Transient’s Killing” 13 March 2005. [San Francisco Chronicle](#) “A death in Berkeley- Maria King— Homeless, Vulnerable, When Brutally Slain” 15 May 2005 and [San Francisco Chronicle](#) “2nd Suspect Held in Beating Death” San Francisco Chronicle 25 May 2005.

Daytona Beach, Florida

Homeless men attacked

February 27: Daytona Beach police said two homeless men were walking along the railroad tracks when five or six young men attacked and threw rocks at them. Calling the homeless men names, the assailants beat the victims with their fists and a blunt object and then fled after rifling their pockets.

Both homeless men were treated for cuts and other injuries at Halifax Medical Center.

Source: [Daytona Beach New Journal](#) “Homeless Man Attacked.” 27 February 2005.

March

Portland, Maine

Man charged in stabbing a homeless man

March 4: A Portland teenager accused of stabbing a homeless man in the throat was charged with elevated aggravated assault, police said.

Matthew Digaetno, 19, was jailed on \$20,000 bail. According to Portland Police Capt. Joseph Loughlin, the victim, Michael Powers, 35, underwent a tracheotomy following the attack.

Loughlin said the attack occurred when two groups of men confronted each other on Portland Street near a homeless shelter and a community-policing unit. A probation officer observed the fight and saw the suspect run away after the attack with a bloody knife.

Source: [Portland Press Herald](#) "Portland Man Charged in Stabbing of Homeless Man" 4 March 2005.

April

Detroit, Michigan

Trooper held for homeless man's death

April 14: Michigan State Trooper Jay Morningstar, aged 35, has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with the April 14th shooting death of a 40-year-old homeless man Eric Williams, who was unarmed. The charge is punishable upon conviction by up to life in prison.

The trooper shot Williams, nicknamed "Magoo," once in the chest at 12:30 a.m. in front of the Detroit Bar after responding to a disturbance call. Detroit police also responded to the car and recorded the shooting on an in-car video camera.

Williams, whose family claims he struggles with mental illness, was harassing customers inside the bar and broke two windows as he was escorted out. Detroit police said in a report that Williams had his pants down around his knees and walked toward Morningstar before the trooper shot him. The trooper said he was approached in a threatening manner and that Williams ignored commands to

stop and show his hands. Sgt. Mike Heredeen, said that Williams was not partially naked, rather his baggy pants were sliding down and he approached Morningstar with his hand at his waist area.

Sources: [Detroit Free Press](#) "At funeral, talk of love replaces talk of revenge," 27 April 2005. [Detroit Free Press](#) "Trooper charged with killing of homeless man." May 10th, 2005. [Metro](#) "Trooper charged in slaying" May 10th 2005. [Detroit Free Press](#) "Trooper held in homeless man's death" May 11th, 2005. [Detroit Free Press](#) "State trooper charged in death of homeless man to stand trial." 21 June 2005.

San Francisco, California

Suspects wanted in homeless shooting

April 14: Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a group of men suspected of shooting homeless people with BB guns.

Sgt. Neville Gittens reported that six people have been injured in four separate shooting incidents over the course of two days.

The first incident took place at 2 am at Clementia and Third Streets; it went unreported until a second shooting occurred at the same location at 2:30 am. Gittens reported that the suspects struck a third time at 3:30am at Seventh and Folsom Streets.

Three of the incidents took place in the city's South of Market neighborhood. The fourth shooting, which police believe is unrelated, took place Thursday morning in Portsmouth Square in Chinatown.

None of the victims suffered life-threatening injuries, Gittens reported.

Witnesses to the South of Market shootings reported that the shooters were four to five males. The men all appear to be either teenagers or in their early 20s. Gittens reported that patrols in the neighborhood have been increased. Plainclothes police will also be used in an effort to catch the suspects.

Source: Bay Area News Station "Suspects Wanted in Homeless Shootings" www.kron.com, April 14th, 2005.

Cave Junction, Oregon

Homeless man in fair condition after beating

April 19: A homeless man from Cave Junction remained in fair condition at a Portland hospital after he was severely beaten one evening. James Guy Bennett, 46, was allegedly hit and repeatedly kicked in the face by 18-year-old Teo Rasmussen, who faces a first-felony assault charge and is being held at the Josephine County Jail on bail.

According to the Josephine County Sheriff's Department, the incident occurred around 8 pm at the intersection of Watkins and Junction avenues near Jubilee Park. Bennett, whose blood-alcohol content that night measured .33 percent, did not fight back, said Sgt. Ken Selig.

Bennett suffered three broken vertebrae, a deep cut near his right eye, and swelling of his brain, Selig said. He was moved out of the ICU after his condition was upgraded to fair.

Rasmussen and Bennett crossed paths and witnesses said that Rasmussen appeared angry and "had a chip on his shoulder" when he came up to Bennett and "sucker punched" him, reported Selig. Rasmussen later told police he attacked Bennett because of an unspecified threat a week earlier.

Deputies found Bennett unconscious and bleeding heavily from his head. The County's Major Crime Unit was called to the scene, and they later learned that Rasmussen was seen running from the scene just before police arrived.

Source: Southern Oregon Mail Tribune, "Homeless Man in Faire Condition at OHSU After Cave Junciton Attack." 19 April 2005

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Agencies probe guards' dumping of homeless man

April 21: A group of hospital security guards dumped a homeless man who appeared unresponsive on the ground outside Grand Strand Regional Medical Center. According to the police report, an unidentified emergency room doctor said he had the man removed because he considered him disorderly. Other witnesses reported that while inside the hospital, the homeless man's speech was said to be incoherent and his body tense and contorted, with his head tilted back and arms drawn close to his chest.

Hospital officials stated that the security guards involved did not follow policy and were removed from the hospital. However, the hospital has no plans to end its contract with U.S. Security.

HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

February 2006

“I’m very disappointed by this,” said Libby Faulkner, director of Street Reach Mission homeless shelter in Myrtle Beach, “There is nothing justifiable about treatment like that, putting him on the side of the road. It upsets me that anyone would be treated that way.”

Source: The Sun News “Agencies Probe Guards’ Dumping of Homeless Man”. 21 April 2005.

May

Tucson, Arizona

Teens arrested in slaying of homeless man

May 2: Two teens have been arrested by Tucson police in the May killing of a homeless man on the Southeast Side.

According to authorities, Ralph Burkley, 19, and his brother, Derek Waters, 17, have been taken to Pima County Jail and charged with first-degree murder. The teens were arrested near an apartment complex about a block from where the body of Francis Duggan III was found on May 2.

Police said Duggan, 49, died of blunt force trauma as the result of a beating or fight. The teens knew Duggan for a short period before he was killed, according to investigators who believe robbery was the motive for slaying since Duggan's cell phone and wallet were taken.

Sources: The Tucson Citizen "Teens arrested in slaying of homeless man." 17 November 2005; KGUN 9 News 5pm 17 November 2005. KVOA 18 "A man and a teenager have been arrested in the slaying of a homeless person, police say" November 2005.

Camden, New Jersey

Camden boy pleads guilty in homeless man's death

May 11: A 16-year-old Camden boy pleaded guilty, in the Family Division State Superior Court, to manslaughter in the death of a homeless man. He admitted to punching Eleazer Espinoza Pineda, 32, who usually went by the name Juan Delgado. Pineda fell and hit his head on the ground and died at Cooper University Hospital shortly after.

Judge Angelo DiCamillo sentenced the boy to four years in a juvenile facility for the act.

An investigation showed that the juvenile, wearing boxing gloves borrowed from a friend, had encountered Pineda in front of a store and knocked him down with a single punch.

Source: Philadelphia Inquirer "Camden boy, 16, pleads guilty in homeless man's death." 11 May 2005.

Broward/Dade Counties, Florida

Street Newspaper Vendors Attacked

May: Two Homeless Voice street newspaper vendors were shot at a total of four times each while on the job. As a result, one vendor received welts to his body. The other required surgery to remove the pellet from his body.

No suspects have been named at this point. However, crimes continue as another vendor working in the same vicinity was shot in the chest with the same type of gun a few weeks later.

Source: Sean Connie, President of the Homeless Voice and the South Florida Coalition for the Homeless

Holly Hill, Florida

Homeless man killed for fun

May 31: Five teenage boys have been charged in the death of a 53-year-old homeless man through repeated beatings and allegedly jumping on a log placed over his ribs. Two of the teenagers, charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, said they killed the homeless man “for fun” because they “needed something to do”. Christopher Scamahorn, 14, and Jeffery Spurgeon, 18, confessed to beating the victim, Michael Roberts, using their fists, tree branches, and a large log to pummel the man in addition to kicking him, said spokesman Brandon Haught.

The teens found the man in the woods, behind a car wash on Nova Road, and harassed him, Haught said, where Spurgeon said he punched the man in the face and left. The pair returned a short time later and kicked the man and beat him with sticks, coming back a total of three times and beating the man each time. Friends said Scamahorn later bragged about the beating and offered to show them Roberts’ body. Visitors to the site included Spurgeon’s cousins, aged 4 and 8.

The victim weighed a little more than 100 pounds. Scamahorn was described as several inches taller and weighing in at over 200 pounds.

An autopsy showed Roberts died of blunt-force trauma to the head and body. He suffered a broken skull, ribs and badly injured legs. Defensive wounds were found on his hands.

A third teenager, Justin Stearns, 18, has also been arrested and is also charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Spurgeon and Scamahorn told deputies that Stearns hit Roberts in the face, threw a log on his head and chest and jumped on it.

Two more suspects have also been arrested in the murder case. Warren Messner, 15, of Holly Hill is charged with second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, and Phi Huynh, 15, of Daytona Beach is charged with aggravated battery in the repeated beating of the victim.

“They didn’t have to do what they did”, said Richard Roberts, brother to Michael, “They could have stopped, but they didn’t. They came back and they came back and they came back.” Barbara Burns, Michael’s older sister, also said “I just think parents need to teach tolerance of other people and to have a little respect for our fellow man. Somewhere along the line we have lost a whole generation.”

“It’s not a surprise to hear of kids attacking a homeless man. It’s happened before... It’s an easy target,” said Del Hillman, program coordinator for the Homeless Assistance Center in Daytona Beach. He added, “there’s rarely a day that I don’t walk the line and see someone who has been beaten up, whether their mouth is busted open or they have stitches.”

“The real thing here is as a community we’ve decided there’s no legitimate place for the homeless,” said Troy Ray, executive director of Halifax Urban Ministries. “Until there is, they will be subject to all kinds of violence,” Ray concluded

The boys told a friend that “it doesn’t matter, they’re just bums.” Lindsay Roberts, executive director of the Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless, said, “I think there is a shocking lack of awareness among the general public about the causes of homelessness and the notion that homeless are just bums who want to live on the street. They don’t want to be there. They live in fear. They are terribly vulnerable to violence of all kind.”

Four of the teenagers pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder. They face possible life sentences. A fifth youth faces charges of aggravated battery.

Sources: “Two teens accused of killing homeless man said they did it for fun” [Associated Press](#) 30 May 2005. “Man’s death doesn’t surprise advocated for homeless” [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#) 31 May 2005. “Volusia beating could have been thrill killing” [Orlando Sentinel](#) 5 June 2005. “More arrests possible in slaying” [Orlando Sentinel-](#)

[Newsday.com](#) 1 June 2005. “3rd teen arrested in fatal beating” [Orlando Sentinel](#) 2 June 2005. “Body found in woods” [Daytona Beach News](#) 29 May 2005. “3rd teen linked to beating death” [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#), 2 June 2005. “Family mourns slain drifter” [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#), 2 June 2005. “Judge orders two 15 year-olds held in beating” [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#), 2 June 2005. [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#) “2 teens held in beating death” 2 June 2005. [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#). “Attack Saddens Suspect’s Father” 2 June 2005. [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#) “Homeless Violence Common” 2 June, 2005. [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#) “Suspects’ flip sides conflict with crime” 2 June 2005. [Daytona Beach News-Journal Online](#) “Study shows crimes against homeless on the rise” 29 June 2005. [Miami Herald](#) “Teenagers That Killed Homeless Man For Fun Plead Guilty” 8 December 2005.

June

East Palatka, Florida

Homeless enticed into “modern-day slavery”

June 11: A farm labor contractor and his associates are accused of looking for homeless people, mostly African-American men, and putting them to work, especially seeking those men addicted to crack cocaine or other narcotics.

The men were allegedly lured with promises of work, room and board and taken to a camp in this poor area of northwest Florida where potatoes and cabbage are grown.

At the end of each day workers were offered crack cocaine, alcohol, and cigarettes on “credit” and the authorities said that the expenses were deducted from their wages. However, as debts grew larger than their wages, the workers were told they would have to pay them off.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, this was how dozens of workers were held captive at the camp, owned and operated by labor contractor Ronald Robert Evans. Federal agents are investigating whether the conditions amounted to modern-day slavery.

“Evans and his enforcers allegedly employ force or threat of force to keep the workers in a condition of involuntary servitude,” according to the U.S. Department of Labor report that was distributed to federal and local agents who raided the camp earlier this month.

Source: [Sun-Sentinel](#) “Authorities Say Homeless Lured into Alleged ‘Modern-Day Slavery.’” 11 June 2005.

Virginia Beach, VA

Beach suspect charged in fatal stabbing of homeless man.

June 18: John Michael Johnson, 45, has been charged with the stabbing death of a homeless man.

Joseph Floyd Moore Jr., 70, was stabbed after an apparent confrontation, reported Brian Ricardo, a police spokesman. The incident occurred in an alley between two buildings.

Geno Roston, the owner of the 58 Deli Diner, found the man’s body on a sidewalk beside his business, police said. Roston said he initially thought the man was asleep but realized later that he was dead.

Residents and merchants in the area told investigators that Moore did not have a permanent address, but was a regular at bars around the area.

Johnson was being held at the city jail on a charge of first-degree murder.

Source: [The Virginian Pilot](#) “Beach suspect charges in fatal stabbing of homeless man” 20 June 2005.

St. Paul, Minnesota

St. Paul homeless man fatally beaten

June 20: A homeless man found unconscious in an alley was beaten to death, said police spokesman Paul Schnell.

Steven Allen Bisek, 49, was the victim of a vicious attack by young men who robbed and harassed vulnerable, drunk and homeless victims on St. Paul's East Side. Bisek, who had no permanent address, was found June 20, unconscious and suffering a head injury. He was taken to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, where he died 11 days later. An autopsy determined the death to be a homicide by blunt force trauma.

On June 20, Police were notified about a robbery-in-progress and immediately arrested two of five suspects. Investigators determined a link between the suspects and Bisek's homicide and arrested two others. Of the four people in custody, two are murder suspects: a teenage boy (whose identity was not released because he is a juvenile) and Deontaye J. Russel, 18, of St. Paul, who is being held in the Ramsey County jail on suspicion of homicide and robbery.

"There was absolutely enough probable cause to connect them and their action to his death," said Schnell.

Investigators linked this case to a series of robberies committed against vulnerable adults on the East Side. "We were talking about a dozen or so, perhaps more because of the population we're talking about it's quite likely that this has gone unreported," said Schnell.

Union Gospel Mission's Men's Services Director Nick Gisi says clients are telling him about an increase in violence, "We've had several clients actually say that there has been an increase out in the streets as far as being attacked."

Police charged 18 year-old Deontre Scott, who was 17 at the time of the crime, and a 14-year-old boy with second-degree murder in the case. Prosecutors said they have filed a petition seeking to have both certified to stand trial as adults.

Sources: Star Tribune "Police: St. Paul Homeless Man Fatally Beaten." 8 July 2005; Pioneer Press "Four Alleged Robbers Held in Homeless Man's Death." 8 July 2005; KARE 11 News "Men Suspected of Beating Homeless, Jailed." Star Tribune "14 year-old Boy Charged in Fatal St. Paul Beating." 3 September 2005. Star Tribune "St. Paul Man Charged in Death of Homeless Man." 25 August 2005. Star Tribune "St. Paul Man, 19, is Charged in the Death of a Homeless Man." 24 November 2005.

Detroit, Michigan

State Troopers assault homeless man

June 24: Two state troopers, Gabriel Seibt, 29, and Todd Parsons, 30, have been charged with misconduct in office, a five-year felony, for assaulting Roosevelt Dean Jr., 50, a homeless man, with chemical spray. Seibt is also charged with felonious assault.

Prosecutors say that the troopers and Dean were involved in a verbal dispute that led to the assault. The troopers took Dean to an alley, where Seibt sprayed him in the face with the chemical spray. They then left Dean by the side of the road while failing to follow several department policies, including one that requires reporting the use of chemical spray. Dean required medical attention and filed a complaint the following day.

The troopers denied a confrontation with Dean, but Law Enforcement Information Records showed that they had run a check on Dean earlier in the evening. The State Police placed the two troopers on administrative leave without pay pending the outcome of the case.

“The Michigan State Police is committed to protecting the dignity and rights of all persons,” said Col. Tadarial J. Sturdivant, director of the Michigan State Police.

Source: [The Detroit News](#) “Troopers released on bond after assault of homeless man.” 9 January 2006.

Sacramento, California

BB gun attacks hit the needy

June 25: At least four homeless people received minor injuries from a series of attacks with a BB gun in the Sacramento area.

One victim required stitches. Another homeless woman said someone “stomped on her face with his foot,” said Sacramento police spokeswoman Michelle Lazark.

These assaults were not the first against homeless people. The Citizens’ Crime Alert Reward Program had previously put out a flier warning: “Be on the lookout in the Downtown & North Sacramento areas for subjects who have been targeting the homeless with pellet or BB guns... These subjects drive up to their victims and ask for directions. The subjects will then shoot the victim(s) at close range,” read the bulletin. There was no apparent motive in the attacks.

The police stopped a silver Dodge Durango that matched descriptions of the attackers’ vehicle, Lazark said. Police confiscated a BB gun from the males inside; however, police ultimately let them go, claiming that no one could positively identify them.

Officials at the Loaves & Fishes organization were infuriated that the suspects were let go. “Homeless people are often detained for much less,” said Tim Brown, executive director. “They know the identity of these folks,” he said. “My question is, what are they going to do about it?” Two of the individuals who were attacked said they would be able to identify their attackers.

Source: [Sacramento Bee](#) “BB Gun Attacks Hit the Needy.” 25 June 2005.

July

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Homeless beat in park

July 6: Several incidents of “homeless bashing” have occurred in the Martin Luther King Junior Park and under a nearby bridge. People have been badly beaten with a club-like weapon. An outreach worker for Crossroads Clinic, a health care for the homeless facility, made the discoveries and alerted police to the situation.

The “bashers” appear to be teens or in their early twenties. The police are keeping an eye out for this, but so far no arrests have been made. Police presence curbed incidents initially, but they have recently resumed.

Source: Virginia Sellner, Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless; direct communication.

Holiday, Florida,

Four men sought in connection with beating of transient

Four men beat a man with a baseball bat and threw his bicycle into a nearby pond, breaking his arm among other injuries.

The man was scolding children for throwing rocks at him when the four men approached him and began to attack him.

Source: Tampa Tribune, “4 Men Sought In Beating of Transient in Holiday.” 13 July 2005.

Davenport, Iowa

Man arrested in assault on homeless man

July 12: A Davenport man severely injured a homeless man by punching him, yelled a racial slur and punched another man, police said.

Ryan Eckstein, 19, was arrested on two counts of willful injury with serious injury and one count of assault with intent of a hate crime for the incidents. Witnesses identified Eckstein as the man who caused life-threatening head injuries to a 50-year-old homeless man.

Source: Quad City Times. “Man Arrested in Assault of Homeless Man.” 12 July 2005.

Roosevelt, New York

3 charged in death of homeless man

July 16: Three gang members who came up empty-handed when they beat a homeless man unconscious during a robbery in Roosevelt earlier this week have been arrested and charged with killing the man, reported Nassau police.

Jose Benitez, 36, died three days after the attack without regaining consciousness.

“I don’t think they even got anything,” Homicide Sgt. Richard Laursen said. Benitez just “looked like ... an easy target.”

The teenagers, members of the “Crips” street gang, were arrested and charged with second-degree murder and first-degree robbery. Benitez had no gang ties.

Benitez had been clubbed several times in the back of the head with a blunt instrument. Police described Benitez only as a homeless man from Roosevelt. Police released few details about the investigation, saying only that the motive was robbery.

Source: Newsday “3 Charged in Death of Homeless Man.” 16 July 2005.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Homeless people getting targeted in park

July: Recently there have been complaints that teenagers who are hanging out in Washington Park are throwing glass beer bottles, targeting the homeless individuals who are in the park. This is occurring on a daily basis, especially now that it is nicer outside and school is almost out.

Source: Rachel Lawson, Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless; direct communication.

August

Battle Creek, Michigan

Second suspect arrested in homeless man's death

August 6: A second suspect has been arrested for the beating death of a homeless man. A 45-year-old Battle Creek resident is being held at the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department, and may be charged with assault with intent to murder. The body of 46-year-old Anthony Dewayne Headen was found near the railroad tracks. One suspect was already in custody.

Source: WWMT-TV "Second suspect arrested in homeless man's death." 8 August 2005.

Los Angeles, California

Sleeping homeless attacked with bats

August 16: Two 19-year-old men, allegedly inspired by the "Bumfights" videos, roamed the streets of Downtown Los Angeles hitting sleeping homeless people with aluminum baseball bats, leaving an elderly man in critical condition with severe head wounds, police said.

The suspects, William Orantes and Justin Brumfield, later told officers they had just watched a controversial DVD in which homeless people are videotaped fighting each other and wanted to do some "bum bashing" of their own, Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton said.

"This was a vicious, cowardly crime that even veteran officers such as myself find hard to believe," Bratton said. "This happened to one of our most helpless communities because they're not only homeless, but often mentally ill. These dehumanizing crimes will not be tolerated."

Mayor Villaraigosa commented, "Why anyone would want to attack anyone who's sleeping in the street is inconceivable to me."

Authorities know of two homeless people who were beaten, but suspect there were other victims who have not come forward.

The first victim, Gerald McHenry, 38, was attacked at 2 a.m. while sleeping on a sidewalk. About 90 minutes later, a security guard saw two men beating a homeless man on the head with baseball bats. The suspects fled by car, but officers soon caught up with them. Officers recovered two aluminum bats and a replica firearm in the car. Both suspects were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

On September 29, Superior Court Commissioner Ronald Rose said he found sufficient evidence to hold Justin Brumfield of Los Angeles and William Orantes of Inglewood on one count of attempted murder and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

Sources: [LA Times](#) "Sleeping homeless attacked with bats." 17 August 2005; [Daily Breeze](#) "Police Say beating Suspects got Idea From 'Bumfights' 19 August 2005; NBC4TV News "Men stand trial for attacks on two homeless men." 29 September 2005.

Fairfield, California

Homeless father beaten

August 18: A homeless man was beaten to unconsciousness and was found in a pool of blood in a church parking lot. Police discovered the victim lying unconscious next to the car with blood pooled around him. He was beaten, stomped on and appeared to have suffered severe head trauma. He was left blind and neurologically damaged by the beating.

A witness who lived nearby said she didn't see the beating. But around the time of the incident she saw three men running from the scene through an adjacent apartment complex.

The three suspects Stephen Armstrong, 18, Tyler Giugni, 19, and Corey Reitmeier, 17, have plead innocent to attempted murder, mayhem and assault charges.

The victim of this savage attack was a homeless father who was living out of his car at the Parkway Community Church on Heath Drive, was reported in good condition last week. The victim, Joseph Pettaway, 47, remained in critical condition at Sutter Roseville Medical Center, hospital staff said.

The three youth were ordered to remain in jail on \$500,000 bail until their next court appearance, which Commissioner Barbara Janes set for Nov. 7 at the request of the three teens' lawyers.

One reason for the delay is the hesitation of Giugni's lawyer to get involved in the case. Fairfield criminal defense lawyer Denis Honeychurch has represented Giugni in several criminal cases in the last 18 months. Honeychurch helped Giugni have serious criminal charges dismissed or reduced while keeping Giugni out of jail on bail, a status he was on at the time of the beating.

Honeychurch told James once again that he still had not been retained by Giugni's family and is unsure whether to handle this new and more serious case against Giugni, who, like his alleged companions, faces a possible life sentence if convicted.

Sources: [Daily Republic](#) "Homeless Man Found Beaten." 29 August 2005; [The Daily Republic](#) "Suspects in Beating of Homeless Man Pleads Innocent." 29 September 2005. [The Reporter](#). "Judge Sets Suspects' Date in Homeless Man's Beating." 8 November 2005.

Boston, Massachusetts

Two South Boston teens arrested in beating death of homeless man.

August 26: Police have arrested two South Boston youth, aged 15 and 17, in the beating death of a homeless man.

Prosecutors alleged that Ryan Leonard and Thomas Grealish beat Mario Acosta Chavez with a baseball bat and kicked him. Chavez, 40, died a few days later at Boston Medical Center. He was just one of the victims in a recent increase of attacks on homeless people.

Grealish was arrested and charged with three counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon soon after the crime. He is charged with using a baseball bats and his feet on Chavez. Leonard has been charged with delivering the fatal punch. He faces a possible twenty years in prison.

Lyndia Downie, the president and executive director of the Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter in the South End, said she is relieved that an arrest has been made, but expressed concerned about the recent spate of violence.

Downie said her outreach staff knew Chavez because they would bring him food and other provisions two or three nights a week. "He was someone who tried to stay pretty inconspicuous and anonymous, ironically. He stayed out of people's way."

Sources: [Boston Herald](#) "Teen Charged in Homeless Man's Beating." 2 September 2005; [Boston Globe](#) "South Boston Teen Arrested in Beating Death of Homeless Man." 2 September 2005. [Boston Herald](#) "Teen Charged in Homeless Slaying." 31 December 2005.

September

Fairbanks, Alaska

Street people continue to be target of attacks

September 19: Fairbanks police are again warning street people to be extra wary after receiving reports Saturday of two more attacks by groups of violent teenagers, one day after three suspects in another attack were arrested.

The youths are reportedly on bicycles, sometimes armed with baseball bats. They prey on people who are alone, vulnerable and sometimes intoxicated, according to police. "It wouldn't be a bad idea for (street people) to be on heightened alert still," Lt. Dan Welborn said.

The string of beatings does not appear racially motivated, said Police Chief Dan Hoffman. He issued a warning to street people last week to watch for potential attackers after Ulak Hope, 50, was severely beaten and the rash of assaults was brought to the Police Department's attention. Police arrested Emanuel Itta, 19, of Fairbanks and two minors, 13 and 14-year-old boys, on charges of first-degree assault.

At Itta's court appearance, Magistrate Beth Spaulding set his bail at \$100,000 as police investigate whether he was involved in other attacks, as many as nine over two months. Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Crail, who sought the high amount for Itta's bail, presented a photograph of Hope's smashed and bloody face in court.

Hope suffered multiple facial fractures September 11 after he was taken by surprise, knocked down, kicked and struck in the face with a baseball bat, according to court records. Police say the attack on Hope appears unprovoked.

Police recovered a baseball bat at the scene of the assault, near Lathrop High School, and linked it to one of the underage suspects, records stated.

Source: [Anchorage Daily News](#) "Street People continue to be target of attacks, Fairbanks police say." 19 September 2005.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Homeless man burned at crowd's urging

September 27: A homeless man on the Northeast side was critically burned when a man poured lighter fluid on him and set him on fire. Anthony W. Eldridge, 22, was trying to sell the lighter fluid on the street when he encountered a crowd of about 20 people in the 4000 block of Brentwood Avenue.

"The crowd said 'light him up,'" said Capt. Phil Burton, and a man used a cigarette lighter to set the fluid on fire.

Eldridge was sent to Wishard Memorial Hospital with third-degree burns over 50 percent of his body. He was listed in critical condition. Deputies weren't certain how the fire was extinguished, but Eldridge was taken a short distance to the 4000 block of Pinehurst Drive East, where help was called. Police are looking for the man believed to have set Eldridge on fire. Deputies have only the name "Lil' Willie."

Source: [The IndyStar](#) "Police: Homeless man burned at crowd's urging." 27 September 2005.

Kansas City, Missouri

Man allegedly raped homeless woman

September 27: A man invited a homeless woman who was seven months pregnant to his home for shelter and then raped her, Jackson County prosecutors alleged.

Prosecutors charged Randy W. Cooper, 52, of Kansas City, with forcible rape and felonious restraint.

Court records gave this account:

The 33-year-old woman told police she was sitting at a bus stop at about 2 a.m. when a man approached and introduced himself. The man said he was concerned that she was out at night, in the cold, in her condition. The woman told the man she had nowhere to go because she was homeless. The man invited her to his home, saying she could have a room of her own. The suspect instead took the woman to an abandoned house.

Once inside, the man insisted on sleeping next to the woman even though she objected. The woman then tried to leave, but the man stopped her and demanded she have sex with him. When she tried to leave again, the man grabbed her neck, causing her to gasp for air, and raped her. After the attack, the woman tried to leave, but the man pulled a phone cord out of the wall and the woman said she feared he was going to strangle her. The next morning, when the man went into another room, the woman escaped. She ran to 31st and Prospect, where she called the police. Police took the woman to a shelter.

Police tracked down Cooper on Tuesday afternoon at his job. He told police he has known the woman for two months and "he thought he could have sex with her," according to court records. He also said the woman called and asked him to meet her at the bus stop. Police say they were checking the phone records. Cooper has ten Jackson County convictions dating back to 1984 for crimes such as manslaughter, assault, and possession of narcotics.

Source: [The Kansas City Star](#) "Man allegedly raped homeless woman." 29 Sept 2005.

Orlando, Florida

Homeless man badly beaten

September 30: Two Orlando police officers were taken off the street after a homeless man they were trying to arrest was seriously beaten. The homeless man was being arrested for trespassing at a local church. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating how the homeless man ended up in the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Jeffrey Goff, 44, has been at the Orlando Regional Medical Center for almost two weeks after being badly beaten during his arrest.

Goff was trespassing at the Rosemont Baptist Church in Orange County. “Goff was what we refer to as passive resistance,” Florida Department of Law Enforcement spokesman Wayne Ivey said. “There was no kicking, no punching, no biting or anything of that nature.” A deputy was called, but Goff would not let go of the Bible he was holding to surrender a fingerprint and the deputy could not handcuff him. “There was some kind of struggle and the Orlando Police Department (OPD) was called for back-up,” said spokeswoman Sgt. Barbara Jones.

The Sheriff’s report says once OPD officers Ed Michael and Randal Pennington showed up at the church, one of them, “grabbed a hold of Goff and threw Goff against the ground.” The same officer shot Goff with a taser gun and then struck him with a baton and punched him. The report says, “Officer Michael struck the defendant several times in the facial area with his fist.”

Goff was admitted to a hospital in serious condition with facial fractures as well as trauma to the brain. Records show that in the six years Officer Michael has worked for the Orlando Police Department, he has been the focus of seven internal affairs investigations.

Officer Michael was charged with aggravated battery. “It is difficult and it is disappointing, but we also know that individual officers do have to be accountable for their actions,” Orlando Police Sgt. Barbara Jones said.

Sources: WFTV News “Homeless man badly beaten during trespassing arrest.” 30 September 2005; Local News 6 “Orlando officer charged in violent beating of homeless man.” 19 November 2005. [St. Petersburg Times](#) “Officer Arrested for Beating Homeless Man.” 20 November 2005.

October

Cleveland, Ohio

Homeless man attacked while sleeping

October: A 55-year-old individual who has requested to have his name withheld reported that he was attacked while sleeping on a sidewalk just off of Public Square. He was injured when the suspect threw a brick at him and then drove off in his car. He needed to be hospitalized, and has stopped sleeping outside in a visible location. He now sleeps in groups for security.

Source: Brian Davis, Northeast Coalition for the Homeless.

Duluth, Minnesota

Homeless Native-American beat to death by police

October 12: Eight police officers have been placed on administrative leave following the beating of a homeless man that resulted in his death. David Croud was a Native American member of the White Earth Chippewa Reservation.

Croud, 29, was intoxicated in a downtown casino in Duluth when a patron complained. The business owners called the Duluth Police Department, who arrived on the scene shortly after. On arrival, the officers became quite belligerent, as testified by a number of witnesses, through Mr. Croud remained complacent. He was thrown up against the wall, kicked and punched repeatedly, then slammed into the sidewalk face down. He was again struck while down and handcuffed. When jerked to his feet, witnesses indicated that a pool of blood was on the pavement and that his face was covered in blood. He was then thrown into the car face down and zapped with a Taser gun. On the way to the jail, the officers realized that he was not breathing and drove to a hospital. He died on October 18th as a result of the injuries suffered.

Authorities are conducting an investigation. The ACLU of Minnesota has picked up the case and will be representing the family, with Mr. Croud's brother acting as the designated spokesperson. Dr. Pouless, Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the region, has been called out of retirement to oversee the case.

An independent review has now cleared the police of Duluth, Minnesota from all charges. During the autopsy it became evident that the man did not die from injury during his course of travel from the time he was taken into custody to the time he arrived in front of the hospital. Other possible factors leading to his death have included his face down position on the gurney and the way he was restrained in the hospital. Additionally Duluth officers are denying any allegations of kicking the victim and using any racial comments directed towards him.

The Croud family will continue to seek help through the American Civil Liberties Union to see whether they should file a civil lawsuit.

Source: Guy Gambill, direct correspondence. Associated Press, "Reports clear police, criticize hospital in death of arrested man." 31 January 2006.

Staten Island, New York

Teens Charged in Arson Death of Homeless Man

October 15: Two teens are under arrest after police say they set a fire that killed a homeless man on Staten Island earlier this week.

The fire destroyed an empty store on New Dorp Lane in Grant City, killing 65-year-old William Lowther.

Seventeen-year-old Edna Marino was arraigned on murder and arson charges Saturday and is being held without bail. Police say the 14-year-old also arrested will be tried in family court because he is a minor.

They say the teens intentionally set the fire. Police also told the Daily News the teens knew the man was inside at the time.

Source: "Teens Charged in Arson Death of Homeless Man" NY1 News. 15 October 2005.

Sacramento, California

Homeless man beaten

October 25: The Sacramento Police Department is investigating the beating of a homeless man that occurred at 16th Street and R Street. The suspects accosted the man with a stick and shot him with a pellet gun. The suspects were described as two teenage males dressed like ninjas.

Source: Sacramento Crime Alert. Sacramento Police Department. 25 October 2005.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Gas station attendant beats homeless man with a bat

October 27: Around mid-morning, Senator Maria de Lourdes Santiago arrived at the Esso gas station in Puerta de Tierra. While parking, she observed a homeless man asking for money. As she pumped gas the Senator saw a young gas station employee with a bat. The employee grabbed the homeless man by his arm; he in turn threw a refreshment at the employee. The employee then proceeded to hit the homeless man in the head with his bat. People witnessing the event took action to control the employee. It was the Senator Santiago's impression that if the other citizens had not reacted to the employee's actions, he would have kept hitting the homeless man with the bat.

Source: Puerto Rico Senator Maria de Lourdes Santiago.

November

Springfield, Illinois

Homeless Men Attacked While Walking

November 1: Two homeless men were attacked on the street when they encountered two men driving a blue pickup truck. The men were pelted with eggs before their assailants emerged from the vehicle and attacking them. One of the men was repeatedly kicked and punched and knocked unconscious, suffering abrasions all over his body.

Sources: Springfield State Journal-Register "Police Beat" 1 November 2005.

San Antonio, Texas

Homeless Man Left for Dead

November 20: The body of David Doane, 49, has been identified after he was beaten up outside on St. Mary's Street on November 20th. Doane had been expelled from a store nearby earlier that night for intoxication. The manager reported that soon after, that he saw two men beat Doane up, then drive off. No arrests have been made.

Sources: KABB-TX, Fox News at 9, 22 November 2005.

December

Cleveland, Ohio

Homeless man attacked while sleeping in park

December 29: On the night of December 29, 2005, Don, a 65-year-old African American, was sleeping in the Public Square. He was attacked by two white individuals, between the ages of 20-30, who were nicely dressed and in a Toyota sedan. Don was inside a sleeping bag at 4 a.m. when the attack occurred and could not defend himself with the exception of covering his face. The two men were using sticks and kicking him. One of the sticks actually broke after repeated hits. A BFI sanitation worker broke up the attack and called an ambulance. The attackers had broken his jaw, and he had multiple bruises all over his body. Additionally, he received five stitches on his face. The BFI employee was the only witness. Don has not returned to Public Square since then. He now intends to only sleep with larger groups so he will not be visible or alone. He did manage to give a report to the police while in the hospital.

Source: Brian Davis, Northeast Coalition for the Homeless.

San Francisco, California

San Francisco suspends officer over video

December 8: An officer was suspended and others face discipline after filming videos containing sexist, racist and homophobic material for an office holiday party, officials said.

About 20 officers participated in creating or performing in the videos, Mayor Gavin Newsom and Police Chief Heather Fong said.

City officials said the videos, created as a spoof about life on the force, included a skit of a white police officer in a patrol car running over a black homeless woman.

“It is shameful, it is offensive, it is sexist, it is homophobic and it is racist,” said Newsom. “We’re going to make sure that it ends, it ends immediately.”

Source: AOL News “San Francisco suspends officer over video,” 8 December 2005.

Stockbridge, Georgia

Homeless man paid \$5 to drink toxic cleaner by Waffle House employee

December 14: A homeless man’s health is improving after he was paid \$5 to drink an industrial strength cleaner.

Rex Leo, 50, drank the toxic liquid after being offered \$5 by Quinton Wilson, 19, a cook at the Waffle House in Stockbridge. The corrosive cleaner damaged Rex’s mouth and digestive system

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and caused internal bleeding. He was recently removed from a ventilator and is now breathing on his own in stable condition.

Wilson was initially charged with misdemeanor reckless conduct, but authorities upgraded the charge to aggravated battery. Wilson was set free on a \$550 misdemeanor bond; however, he is expected to be arrested on the new charge, jail officials said.

Wilson, along with a waitress who knew of the proposition, were both promptly fired by Waffle House.

Source: [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#) "Homeless man recovering after cook paid him \$5 to drink toxic cleaner." 21 December 2005.

THE LINK BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST HOMELESS PEOPLE AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS:

There is a documented relationship between increased police actions and the increasing numbers of hate crimes/violent acts against homeless people. “It seems that disturbed violent people take a cue from their cities’ responses to homelessness and become emboldened with more violent attacks if the city has portrayed homeless people as the cause of unemployment, decreasing property values, or vacant storefronts,” said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

For seven years (1999-2005), the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has tracked a frightening increase in crimes targeting homeless people perpetrated by young people and severely disturbed individuals. These are well-documented violent attacks on a vulnerable population that result in injury and in many cases death.

Advocates from around the country have cited the relationship between municipal actions to restrict visibility of homeless people and hate crimes/violence. This overly broad enforcement of the law or laws passed by city governments specifically targeting homeless people are documented in The National Coalition for the Homeless and The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty’s report entitled, *A Dream Denied: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities* (January 2006). The report also ranks the 20 “meanest” cities in the U.S. for violating the civil rights of homeless people.

VIDEO EXPLOITATION OF HOMELESS PEOPLE:

“Bum Videos”

The release of “Bum Fights” in 2001 has led to a proliferation of bum videos. To our knowledge, six different videos have been produced in the past six years: “Bum Fights,” “Bum Fights II,” “Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage,” “Bum Hunts,” “Bum Show.com,” and “Bag Lady Beatings.” In these videos, homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for minimal rewards while filmmakers turn large profits.

Craig Walton, a professor of ethics and policy studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said, “even if the homeless aren’t forced to perform, it’s inaccurate to describe people without adequate shelter, food or clothing as having choices.”

Dehumanizing videos such as these solely add to the trends of violence and mistreatment of people who suffer from homelessness. According to the May 13, 2004 issue of the Las Vegas Sun, Jeanne Corcoran, production manager for the Nevada Film Office, called the producers of these videos “cockroaches (who) only come out at night. None of us in the government sanction support this type of exploitation.”

In addition, Sgt. Eric Fricker, of Las Vegas, who is supervisor of two Metro Police officers that work specifically with homeless people, said he was trying to “educate the homeless and talking to advocates in order to stop future filmmakers.”

The first video released in 2001, “Bum Fights,” was banned in several other countries. It has been condemned on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. The filmmakers of the video, Ty Beeson and Ray Laticia, initially faced seven felony and four misdemeanor charges for the production of the video. The final court verdict required them to serve sentences of 250 hours of community service and three years probation. Yet “Bum Fights 2” was still released in 2003, followed by “Bum Fights III” in 2004.

Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage

The release of “Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage” is the third installment of the Bum Fights DVD series and its release in 2004 portrays the most degrading, sickening, and offensive material to date about the country’s homeless. Homeless men, women, and children are coerced into performing dangerous stunts for money and drugs; reinforcing negative stereotypes about homeless people and homelessness. The footage portrays homeless people as drug addicts, alcoholics, bums, and worst of all worthless. The filmmakers continually mock and demoralize homeless people by filming some of the following scenes:

- A homeless man named “Bling Bling” smokes crack in various crowded public places, including a casino and alongside a river, others are shown using illegal substances on a sidewalk and in public bathrooms.

- “Bling Bling,” is later “rehabbed” when chained to a light post he endures taunts, teasing, and torture, with money and crack dangled just out of his reach. As he goes through withdrawal from his drug addiction the filmmakers inch the plate of goods closer and closer to him. “Bling Bling” is finally rewarded with drugs after he bungee jumps off a tower into a swimming pool.
- A homeless man (Donnie) receives a spanking on his birthday from a prostitute and another homeless man named Rufus. These two individuals severely spank this man repeatedly with sex whips on the buttocks, genital region, and across the forehead. Donnie is gagged throughout this act and grimaces in pain.
- A homeless man is antagonized as he runs pushing a shopping cart in a marathon, asking for donations from the crowd along the way.
- Several individuals continuously attack a homeless man, targeting his face. The victim screams in pain.
- Numerous fights caught on amateur film are shown throughout the movie. The majority of these fights depict brutal beatings of a single individual by two or more people.
- Many homeless individuals are shown vandalizing property, such acts as kicking garbage cans and defecating in public.
- Rufus, one of the homeless men featured, shouts profanities at Bruce Helgland, the district attorney of San Diego, who is trying to shut down Bum Fights.
- Rufus is later shown receiving a dyed Mohawk, a shaved eyebrow and reveals a painful tattoo scripted across his stomach that reads “Bum Life.”
- A homeless man runs into a big piece of glass and is later shown bleeding.
- A homeless man punches another man in the face and then repeatedly kicks him, even after his victim has fallen to the ground.
- A trap was set to lure homeless men by putting a \$20 bill on top of a slippery painted pole. These men step on each other’s backs and heads in attempt to climb up the pole and retrieve the money.
- Homeless men and women are pretending to have sex on the sidewalk in a scene the filmmakers dub “Bum Luvving.”
- A homeless woman is being interviewed but is quickly called a “shitty interview” because she expresses her appreciation for homeless people.
- Several individuals beat a single homeless person and the victim pleads for the attackers to stop.

Stop Selling Hate

Even more disconcerting are major corporate retailers that deem it acceptable to sell such videos, depicting homeless people taking part in dehumanizing acts of self-mutilation and violence for small rewards of money, alcohol, or drugs. Please do research in your own community to see if any small bookstores or large retailers are selling any of these videos.

These small and large retailers depend on their public image, yet find it acceptable to traffic violent and dehumanizing films and videos. They are taking advantage of a vulnerable,

minority population to make a profit. The first video, “Bum Fights” grossed over six million dollars in its first year, and those recently produced continue to bring in profit at the “expense of the homeless people who are exploited and aren’t paid one cent,” said Michael Stoops, acting executive director for the National Coalition for the Homeless. Years ago, these films were relegated to the adult video world, less reputable stores, or some dark corner of the internet – not the brightly-lit shelves of retail stores.

NCH considers the sale of these films as approval of this illegal behavior, and possibly encouraging the further development of these exploitative films. It perpetuates the rise of hate speech and hate crimes/violence directed against homeless people in the United States. NCH will continue to monitor these videos.

If you discover the distribution of such items in your community, take personal action by contacting your local retailer. Demand the following:

- a. Immediately stop selling these videotapes or DVDs, and destroy the current inventory.
- b. Turn over the profits from the sale of these violent videotapes to an agency of their choosing that serves homeless people.

Please also send a copy of your letter, email or fax to:

Michael Stoops
Acting Executive Director
National Coalition for the Homeless
2201 P St., NW
Washington, DC 20037-1033
Phone: (202) 462-4822 x19
Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: mstoops@nationalhomeless.org



**A CALL TO INVESTIGATE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE
COMMITTED AGAINST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS**

Over the past seven years (1999-2005) advocates and homeless shelter providers from around the country have received news reports of men, women and even children being harassed, kicked, set on fire, beaten to death, and even decapitated. From 1999 through 2005 there have been 472 acts of violence, resulting in 169 deaths of people experiencing homelessness, and 303 victims of non-lethal violence. These incidents took place in 165 different cities from 42 states and Puerto Rico. The perpetrators were housed individuals, overwhelmingly teens and young adults.

NCH calls on Congress for a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation into the nature and scope of violent acts and crimes that occur against people experiencing homelessness. People who are forced to live and sleep on the streets for lack of an appropriate alternative are in extremely vulnerable situations. We must ensure protection of civil rights for everyone, regardless of their economic circumstances or housing status. Please take a moment to sign on below.

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENT FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name of Organization _____
Contact Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
Email _____

Send this form to:

National Coalition for the Homeless
2201 P St. NW
Washington, DC 20037-1033

Phone: (202) 462-4822 ext. 19
Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: mstoops@nationalhomeless.org

Or sign on online at www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html

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Please personalize this letter to your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators, including any personal stories that are relevant. Send this letter via email or fax as they are the most effective ways of reaching your representative due to the post 9/11 anthrax concerns regarding posted mail. You can find your representative's fax machine numbers and email addresses on www.house.gov and www.senate.gov by searching their names. Please send a copy of any letters and responses you receive to Michael Stoops at the National Coalition for the Homeless at mstoops@nationalhomeless.org or by fax (202) 462-4823.

Date

The Honorable [*insert full name*]
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable [*insert full name*]
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Senator/Representative [*insert full name*],

I am requesting your assistance in seeking a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation into the nature and scope of hate crimes and violent acts against people experiencing homelessness. The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) is supported in this request by over 400 organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Council of La Raza, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National League of Cities, National Organization of Women (NOW), and Volunteers of America.

Throughout the nation, people experiencing homelessness, advocates, and service providers report an alarming increase in the number and scope of violent acts against people who lack permanent housing. These accounts include beatings, murders, arson, harassment, and damage of personal property. Homeless men, women, and children around the nation are particularly vulnerable to crimes against them because they represent an easy, visible target and often lack a place to retreat for safety and protection.

A GAO study would assist Congress and the public in obtaining much-needed information on the extent and scope of violent acts and crimes against people experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, such an investigation would help federal, state, and local officials identify actions that could be taken to prevent and reduce such crimes.

NCH has done annual reports on this problem over the past seven years (1999 – 2005). These reports document hate crimes and violent acts committed against people experiencing homelessness. These reports can be found at www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes. From 1999 through 2005, there have been 472 acts of violence, resulting in 169 deaths of people experiencing homelessness, and 303 victims of non-lethal violence. These incidents took place in 165 different cities from 42 states and Puerto Rico. The youngest victim was four months old; the oldest was 74 years old. (*Insert relevant information from your city/state*). A study by the GAO would aid in protecting one of the most vulnerable populations in our society.

If you would like further information on this critical issue please contact me at:

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

January 27, 2006

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

We are writing to request that the Government Accountability Office investigate the nature and scope of violent crimes directed against people experiencing homelessness. This investigation would assist Congress and the advocacy community in creating a much-needed benchmark for determining the extent of violent acts and potential legislative solutions for addressing crimes against people experiencing homelessness. Moreover, such an investigation may also help federal, state, and local officials identify actions that could be taken to prevent and reduce such crimes.

The June 2001 killing of Hector Robles in Paterson, NJ, by a mob of high school boys saturated the press with a story both horrible in its brutality and inexplicability of motivation. Hidden from most Americans, however, is the number of shocking crimes committed nationwide against people experiencing homelessness each year. For the last seven years, the National Coalition for the Homeless has tracked a disturbing increase in crimes targeting homeless people. Since 1999, 169 people have died in hate attacks, with hundreds more injured in other violent assaults.

Homeless men, women, and children around the nation are particularly vulnerable to crimes against them because they represent an easy, visible target and often lack a place to retreat for safety and protection. Across the nation, people experiencing homelessness, advocates, and service providers report an alarming epidemic of hate crimes and violent acts against people who lack permanent housing. These accounts include beatings, murders, arson, harassment, and damage of personal property. Most recently, on January 12, one homeless man was murdered in a series of overnight attacks in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Thrill seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of the violence. For example, the May 28, 2005, murder of Michael Roberts in Holly Hill, FL was perpetrated by a group of teenagers who admitted to beating the man just to have something to do. The autopsy report indicates that Roberts died of blunt-force trauma to the head and body, his ribs were broken, his skull was fractured, and his legs were badly injured. This trend has been exacerbated by the proliferation of "Bum Videos," in which homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for drugs, money, alcohol or food.

HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

February 2006

A study by the GAO would aid in protecting one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. We are concerned about the fact there seems to be insufficient data to develop community-based programs or legislation to address this pattern of violence. For these reasons, we request that the GAO examine and report on the following:

- (1) The extent, level, and nature of violent crime directed against homeless people;
- (2) The extent to which violent crimes directed against homeless persons are sentenced with the same severity as those in the general public or whether these crimes are carry enhanced penalties;
- (3) The number of jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies that currently collect data or implement programs designed to address crimes directed at individuals on the basis of their housing or economic status; and
- (4) Demographic data on the characteristics of victims, perpetrators and jurisdictions where there have been clusters of crimes directed at individuals on the basis of their housing or economic status.

A GAO investigation of this matter is vitally important to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Americans. We thank you for your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss our proposal. Please contact Keenan Keller with the Democratic staff of the Committee on the Judiciary at 202-225-6906 with any inquiries concerning this request.

Very truly yours,

John Conyers, Jr.
Howard L. Berman
Zoe Lofgren
Maxine Waters
William Delahunt
Robert Wexler
Anthony Weiner
James McDermott
Lynn Woolsey
Jan Schakowsky
Donald Payne
Rick Larsen
Dennis Kucinich

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Xavier Becerra
Steve King
Hilda Solis
Charles Rangel
Major Owens
Adam Schiff
Rosa DeLauro
Earl Blumenauer
William Lacy Clay
Elijah Cummings
Sander Levin

**ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS FOR A GAO
INVESTIGATION INTO HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE AGAINST
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:****National Organizations:**

Alliance for Children and Families
Americans for Democratic Action
Anti-Defamation League
Coalition on Human Needs
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Families United Against Hate (FUAH)
Health Care f/t Homeless Clinicians' Network
Housing Assistance Council
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, ELCA
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth
National Center for Hate Crime Prevention
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Consumer Advisory Board
National Council of La Raza
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National League of Cities
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network for Youth
National Organization for Women
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness
National Resource Ctr. on Homelessness & Mental Illness
National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office
Southern Regional Council
UCC/Ministries for Criminal Justice & Human Rights
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries
United for a Fair Economy

Universal Living Wage Campaign
Volunteers of America

Local/State Organizations:

AK

Peer Properties, Inc.

AL

15 Place/Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast
Alabama Council on Human Relations
Birmingham Coalition of the Homeless
Federation of Southern Coops/Land Assistance Fund
Mobile Fair Housing Center, Inc.
Montgomery Community Action Committee, Inc.

AR

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/AR
The Arkansas Hunger Coalition
Women's Project

AZ

Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
Compass Health Care
Ecumenical Chaplaincy for the Homeless
HomeStart
Primavera Builders, Inc.
The Primavera Foundation

CA

Agorua High School/Human Rights Club
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency
California Coalition for Rural Housing
Capitol City SDA Church
Central Coast Rescue Mission
Child Care Voucher Program (Catholic Charities)
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County
County of Mendocino Department of Mental Health
Emergency Service Network
Freedom Clothing and Art
Homeless Empowerment Project West
Homeless Help
Housing California
Justice for Homeless San Francisco
L.A. Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California
New Opportunities
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Ocean Park Community Center
Orange County Community Housing Corp.
Religious Witness with Homeless People
Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee
Sacramento Loaves & Fishes
San Diego Coalition for the Homeless
San Diego Youth and Community Services
San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness
Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless
SRO Housing Corp.
The Salvation Army
Union Station Foundation
Windows Support Center

CO

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
COMITIS Crisis Center, Inc.
Denver Voice
Mercy Housing
Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy
SPIRIT-Human Services, Inc.

CT

AIDS Project New Haven
Columbus House Inc.
Community Renewal Team
CT AIDS Residence Coalition
CT Coalition to End Homelessness

DC

Action for Peace through Prayer & Aid
Change, Inc.
Community Council f/t Homeless/Friendship Place
Dinner Program for Homeless Women
Downtown Cluster of Congregations
House of Imogene Shelters
So Others Might Eat (SOME)
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

FL

Broward Coalition for the Homeless
Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami Inc
Charlotte County Homeless Coalition
Charlotte County Public Schools/Youth Project
Clara White Mission
Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc
Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County
Community Coalition on Homelessness
David Lawrence Center
Domestic Abuse Shelter Homes, Inc.
Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition/St. Johns County
Family Resources, Inc
Florida Coalition for the Homeless
Florida Impact
HIS Place Ministries
Homeless Voice
Lake Community Action Agency
Lee County Coalition for the Homeless
Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.
Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
Office of Justice & Peace, Diocese/St. Augustine
Punta Gorda Housing Authority
Recovery House of Central Florida, Inc.
Salvation Army, Sarasota Co.
Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services
Stand Up for Kids
SW Florida Coalition for the Homeless
Tallahassee Coalition for the Homeless
The Cooperative Feeding Program
The Salvation Army, Melbourne FL Corps
USFF, Inc.
Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless
WIN/Coalition for the Hungry & Homeless of Brevard

GA

Athens Area Homeless Shelter
Georgia Legal Services
Georgia Task Force for the Homeless
Jesus & Mohammed's Tree Service
Living Room, Inc.
Lowndes Associated Ministries to People
Macon Outreach at Mulberry
Mercy Housing
Mercy Services Corporation
Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless
NAMI South Cobb

NARAL Pro Choice/GA
Northeast Georgia Homeless Coalition
The Atlanta Union of the Homeless

HI

A.S.I./Ohana Ola O Kahumana
Affordable Housing and Homeless Alliance
Gregory House Programs
Waianae Community Outreach

ID

Terry Reilly Health Services Boise Clinic

IL

Calor/Casa Contreras
Catholic Voices for Economic Justice
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Hyde Park & Kenwood Interfaith Council
Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Interfaith House
Lincoln Park Community Shelter
Rafael Center
San Jose Obrero Mission
Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless
St. Clair Co. Intergovernmental Grants Department
Statewide Housing Action Coalition
Task Force Against Homelessness

IN

Association of College Unions International
Community Action of Northeast Indiana
Evansville Coalition for the Homeless
Haven House Services, Inc.
Heart House
Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues
Michigan City Homeless Shelter
Southern Indiana Housing Initiative
Stepping Stones for Veterans, Inc.
Vincent House, Inc.

KS

Homeless Come Home
Inter-Faith Ministries

KY

Hate Crime Foundation of Louisville
Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
Kentucky Housing Corporation
Northern Kentucky Homeless & Housing Coalition
St. John Center, Inc.
St. Vincent de Paul
The Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.

LA

Centerpoint
Operation Enduring Independence
Providence House
RHD Voyage House
Unity for the Homeless Advocacy Committee

MA

Arise for Social Justice
Casa Myrna Vazquez
Catholic Social Services
Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands
Consumer Advisory Board, Boston Health Care f/t Homeless
Holy Cross SCOHAH Program
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
New England Network
Outreach Van Project
Peace at Home
Safe Harbor
Solutions at Work
Springfield School Volunteers, Homeless Education
Tripp Consulting
Union of Minority Neighborhoods
WWM

MD

AIDS Interfaith Residential Services
Arundel House of Hope
Frederick Community Action Agency
Happy Helpers for the Homeless
Health Care for the Homeless
Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc.
The Prejudice Institute
Washington County Community Action Council

ME

Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence
Preble Street Resource Center

MI

Altrusa Teen SHARE
Blue Water Center for Independent Living
Catholic Family Services
Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS)
Community Capital Development Corporation
Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries
Dochas, Inc
Homeless Action Network of Detroit
Lenawee Emergency & Affordable Housing Corp.
Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
NE MI Coalition f/t Prevention of Homelessness
Open Door Rescue Mission
Ostego County Housing and Homeless Coalition
Ostego County Housing Committee
Ostego County United Way
Peoples Progressive Network (PPN) of Washtenaw Co.
Safe Horizons
Sequel Mental Health Agency, Inc.
VISTA
Waterfalls

MN

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Anoka County Affordable Housing Coalition
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project
CASH
Celestial Synergy, LLC
Central Community Housing Trust
Central Lutheran Church
Central MN Task Force on Battered Women
Church of St. Stephens
Community Home Partnership
Community Psychologists of Minnesota
Desera Grimley Consulting
Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Elim Transitional Housing
Fair Housing Center of Minnesota
F-M Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc.
Heartland Community Action Agency
Housing Access Center
Housing Coalition of the St. Cloud Area

Houston County Women's Resources
Information Alternatives
Integrated Community Solutions
Life House
Mid-Minnesota Women's Center
Minnesota AIDS Project
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Minnesota Librarians For Social Responsibility
Minnesota Library Workers for Peace and Justice
Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc.
People Serving People, Inc.
PEPP
Project Foundation
Project Off Streets
Range Transitional Housing
Residents for Affordable Housing
Rise, Inc
ROOF Project
RS Eden Womens' Program
Salvation Army Harbor Light Center
Scott-Carver Housing Coalition
Simpson Housing Services
St. Stephen's Human Services
Tri Valley Opportunity Council Inc
Volunteers of America Cornerstone
Zumbro Valley Mental Health

MO

Missouri Association for Social Welfare

MS

Catholic Charities
Hinds County Human Resource Agency
JHCHC-Ivory Homeless Clinic
Mississippi Children's Home Society
Seashore Mission UMC

NC

AIDS Community Residence Association
Glory to Glory House of Refuge
Greensboro Housing Coalition
Pan Lutheran Ministries of Wake County, Inc.
The Homeless Coalition

ND

Mercer County Women's Action & Resource Center
Minot Area Homeless Coalition
ND Department of Commerce
YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead

NH

American Friends Service Committee—New Hampshire
Homeless Center for Strafford County
New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness
Under The Bridge

NJ

Apostle House Brunswick Community Housing Corp.
Fair Housing Council of Northern New Jersey
Garden State Coalition for Youth & Family Concerns
Greater Newark HUD Tenants' Association
Hygiene Help for the Homeless
Interfaith Council
Middle Earth, Inc
Middlesex County CEAS Committee
New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless
Women Rising, Inc

NM

Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

NV

Department of Veteran Affairs
NV Health Center
Poverello House
Straight from the Streets
ZanderZink Productions

NY

BIG News
BMCC
Center for Youth
Common Ground Community
Consumer Information & Dispute Resolution
Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services
Homeless in Action
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.
Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless

Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS
Penny Lane
Picture the Homeless
Poor Homeless Farmers
Street News
The Partnership for the Homeless
Urban Pathways

OH

CAP Harmony House
Caracole/HMIS
Cleveland Tenants Organization
Columbus Health Department
Columbus Neighborhood Health Center
Cross Creek Community Church/UCC
Faith Mission
Family Services
Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless
Mary Magdalen House
Maryhaven-Engagement Center
Miller Community House
Neighborhood House Assn. of Lorain
Netcare
New Housing Opportunities
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
Run for Shelter
Scioto County Homeless Shelter
The Other Place
The Salvation Army, Columbus
Volunteers of America, Family Services
Welfare Rights Coalition

OK

Greater Love Outreach/My Sister's Keeper

OR

Community Resources and Vital Services
First United Methodist Church of Portland
Oregon Farm Worker Ministry
Oregon Partnership Alcohol and Drug Helpline
Outside In
Recovery Association Project
South Coast Homeless Council
Street Roots
SW Oregon Community Action

T.H.E. House
YWCA

PA

Bucks County Housing Group
Community Human Services Corporation
Community of Caring
Harrisburg Center for Peace & Justice
Kensington Welfare Rights Union
Live4Ever Ministries
Northside Common Ministries
Operation Safety Net
Pennsylvania Lesbian & Gay Task Force
Project HOME
United Neighborhood Centers
YWCA of Titusville, PA

PR (Puerto Rico)

Coalicion de Apoyo Continuo a Personas sin Hogar
Hogar Padre Venaro, Inc.
Iniciativa Comunitaria de Investigacion, Inc.
La Fondita de Jesus

RI

Advent House
AIDS Care Ocean State
Homeless Action for Necessary Development
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
Statewide Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island
Travelers Aid Society of Rhode Island

SC

Crisis Ministries
GAMES Coalition for the Homeless
MEG's House
South Carolina Inst. on Poverty and Deprivation
Upstate Homeless Coalition of South Carolina

TN

Amnesty International-Rhodes College Chapter
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition
Family Life Center
Greater Memphis Interagency Council f/t Homeless
Homeward Bound Knoxville
Memphis Family Shelter

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity
Residential Resources
S.A.C.H./Rhodes College
TN Network For Community Economic Development
VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program

TX

Abilene Hope Haven
Advocacy Outreach
AHP Mutual Housing Association
Bay Area Homeless Services
Butterflies from Heaven Ministries
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co.
Families Under Urban & Social Attack
Fort Bend Co. Social Services
Fort Bend County Women's Center
Harris Co. Hosp. Dist.-Health Care f/t Homeless Program
Healthcare for the Homeless, Houston
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
House the Homeless, Inc.
Houston Community Voice Mail
Houston Compass
Hunger Busters
New Hope Housing, Inc.
Poetic Healings Production
Promise House, Inc.
Samaritan Inn
The Arrow Project
The Houston Launch Pad
The Samaritan Inn
Trinity Works
Wesley Community Center

UT

Coalition of Religious Communities
Homeless Health Care Program
J.E.D.I. for Women
Utah Issues

VA

Arlington Street People's Assistance Network
Homestretch, Inc.
Project HOPE, NRV
Virginia Coalition for the Homeless
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

VT

Paula Natlt, Inc
Rural Vermont
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition

WA

African American Community Education Project
Associated Ministries
Catholic Community Services
Cocoon House
David Lanz Productions
Friends of Youth
Helping Hand House
NAMI Eastside Housing Committee
Plymouth Housing Group
Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless
Washington State Coalition for the Homeless

WI

Family Services of Northeast, Wisconsin, Inc.
Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee

WV

Aid Foundation for Families in Need, Inc.
Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless
Covenant House
Huntington West Virginia Housing Authority
Information and Referral Services
Scottie's Place, Inc.

WY

Cheyenne Crossroads Clinic

Foreign Organizations:

Canada

L' Itineraire
Operation Go Home/Winnipeg Chapter
Street Sheet Canada

Norway

World Home
International Tenants Union