

***Hate, Violence, and Death
on Main Street USA:
A Report on Hate Crimes
and Violence Against
People Experiencing Homelessness
2003***



June 2004

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2003 ANNUAL REPORT

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Michelle Lee, NCH's Website Manager, helped edit the report and did the layout.

Marguerite McClain, an intern at NCH who is a graduate social work student at the University of Michigan, served as the editor-in-chief of this report.

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Zeke Phillips, an intern from Amherst College, Class of 2005, went through the barrage of information and news reports to produce a clear and concise account of the hate crimes/violence inflicted on homeless people.

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INTRODUCTION

On a “mission to clean up the community,” three National Guardsmen were arrested in Medford, Oregon for beating a homeless man with a wooden club. They called him a disgrace to his race while they claimed to have “white pride.” This beating was one of the many angry and vicious attacks committed against people experiencing homelessness that occurred in 2003.

A sampling of the headlines in the case narrative section of this annual report says it all:

Three Men Set Homeless Man On Fire (Nashville, TN, Jan.)
Homeless Man Beaten and Robbed by Six Youths (Sarasota, FL, Jan.)
Homeless Man Attacked as He Slept (Los Angeles, CA, Feb.)
Three Men Attack Homeless Woman with Baseball Bats (Minneapolis, MN, May)
Homeless People Hit in Drive-By Shootings (Austin, TX, June)
Homeless People Used, Abused by Insurance Fraud Ringleaders (Chicago, IL, June)
Group of Teenage Males Shoot Homeless Man with Paintball Gun. He Loses Eye (Ewing, NJ, July)
Four Teenagers Beat and Stole from Four Homeless Men in Videotaped Attacks (Chicago, IL, Aug.)
Four Teenagers Reportedly Attack at Least Seven Homeless People with Stun Guns (Cleveland, OH, Aug.)
Homeless Man Beaten by Police Officers (Fort Lauderdale, FL, Aug.)
Violent Attack Spurs March (Portland, ME, December)
Homeless Man Was Shot Repeatedly with a Pellet Gun (San Francisco, CA, Dec.)

Discrimination against people experiencing homelessness has become accepted in today's society.

Since 2001, there has been a proliferation of “Bum Videos,” in which homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for money, alcohol or food. The video producers also use parodies of famous TV shows to mock and demoralize the lifestyles of homeless people. Recently, major corporate retailers including Tower Records, Amazon, Borders, Virgin Mega Stores, Target, Best Buy, Blockbuster, Barnes and Noble and Trans World Entertainment have found it acceptable to sell these videos and DVDs in their stores and on the internet. Fortunately, a few corporations (Amazon.com, Target, Virgin Mega stores, Blockbuster.com, and Barnes and Noble) have stopped selling the disturbing videos as per NCH's request.

In some of the more severe video scenes:

- * A homeless man drinks urine he perceives is a beer.
- * A homeless man runs headfirst into a stack of crates for a nickel.
- * A homeless man with drug addiction problems sets his hair on fire.
- * A homeless man rides in a shopping cart down a ramp and crashes into the wall.

- * A man, pretending to be Steve Irwin of “Crocodile Hunter” fame, calls himself the “Bum Hunter.” He chases and tackles some homeless people, while sneaking up on others who are lying down. He sits on top of them, ties their hands and feet together with duct tape and makes remarks as if they were animals (“this one is a fine species,” “a small guy like this is very susceptible to predators,” “look he has got no teeth, smoking crack deteriorates your gums,” and “I want to look in his cart to see what he has stolen”). He also makes degrading comments such as, “if I came in here with a brand new bandage (to fix a homeless man’s arm), he would immediately try to rip it off because he doesn’t know the smell, he thinks it’s new, and we all know that bums don’t wear new clothes, they only wear old clothes.”
- * A homeless man is offered a quarter to drink Windex. He takes a gulp of the bottle for 1 dollar. He is shown vomiting shortly afterwards.
- * Two men claim to be the “Homeless Pound Transport.” They use a rope, a crossbow, a snare, “homeless bait,” a stun gun and a straight jacket to capture homeless people. Once they capture a homeless person, they put him or her in a locked cage on the back of a pickup truck. Then they drive their victim through the city to the “Homeless Pound” (public mockery).
- * A man shoots potatoes and apples at homeless people with a “Bum Gun.” He knocks down a homeless man on crutches; he shoots one in the head; he shoots another in the back, etc.

Sinclair Community College’s (Dayton, Ohio) student newspaper, *The Clarion*, published an editorial that proposes running over homeless people with cars as a way to combat panhandling. “If one more homeless bum asks me for change in the Oregon District,” wrote Jonathan Dillon, “I may have to start running them over when I see them on the street.” He continued, “All I’m saying is that the next time you are driving and have the opportunity to run over some obnoxious bum who’s been begging you for money as long as you can remember, why not swerve? Fun, fun, fun.”

Other notorious examples include: a conservative radio talk show in Cincinnati who sponsored a “Derelict Round-Up” in which a bus picked up homeless people in the Downtown area and dropped them off in the suburbs. The homeless persons were lured into the bus with promises of malt liquor and cheap wine.

Another radio station this time in Cleveland in which two DJs asked a homeless man for permission to shock him with a stun gun in exchange for a free pizza.

A Mayoral candidate in Kingston, NY claimed that the residents of a local shelter were “pedophiles, drunks, alcoholics and bums.”

Or the most outrageous statement comes from the Hotel Council of San Francisco, who launched a billboard/poster campaign that discourages giving to panhandlers. One poster showed a picture of tourists and San Francisco residents saying, “Today we rode a cable car, visited Alcatraz, and supported a drug habit. Giving to panhandlers doesn’t help, it hurts.” In a more pointed poster, a hand holds a cup that reads “Desperate for Help,” with “help” crossed out and replaced by “crack.” Statements such as these reinforce negative and violent stereotypes against homeless individuals.

Over the past five years (1999-2003), advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the country have seen an alarming increase in reports of homeless men, women and even children being killed, beaten, and harassed. In 1999, NCH, a nationwide network of civil rights and homeless advocates, responded to this concern and produced the first compilation of its kind, *No More Homeless Deaths! Hate Crimes: A Report Documenting Violence Against Men and Women Homeless in the U.S.* The following year (2000), NCH published *A Report of Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Who Are Homeless in the United States in 2000*. In 2001, *Hate. A Compilation of Violent Crimes Committed Against Homeless People in the U.S. in 2001* was completed. The fourth consecutive report, “*Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2002*” was also released. The continual size of news reports of hate crimes and violence against people experiencing homelessness also led the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) to publish a four year study examining hate crimes and violence committed against people experiencing homelessness from 1999-2002. These reports present the known incidences of hate crimes and violence against the homeless population. These annual reports aim:

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

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). It 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.” 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.² Thrill seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of violence against the homeless population.

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

² Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, www.ojp.usdoj.gov

For documenting hate speech and hate crimes and violence, NCH relies on news reports and information relayed to us by homeless shelters around the country for the data and documentation that it includes in its reports. 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 violent acts go unpublicized and/or unreported, thereby making it difficult to assess the true situation. 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 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 on homeless women.

Federal bias crime laws enacted subsequently 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, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.”³ 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.⁴

The most recent piece of legislation, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2004 (H.R. 4204), introduced in the 108th Congress “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*.

H.R. 4204 has broad bipartisan support, with 176 co-sponsors in the House. The National Coalition for the Homeless aims to include *housing status* in the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act and in future pieces of legislation. By including *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.

³ Source: Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, www.civilrights.org

⁴ Source: Anti-Defamation League, http://www.adl.org/legislative_action/hatecrimes_briefing.html

A main objective of this report is to educate lawmakers, advocates, and the general public about the problem of hate crimes and violence against people who are homeless 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 violent acts and hate crimes against people who experience homelessness.

**A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence
Against People Experiencing
Homelessness, 2003**

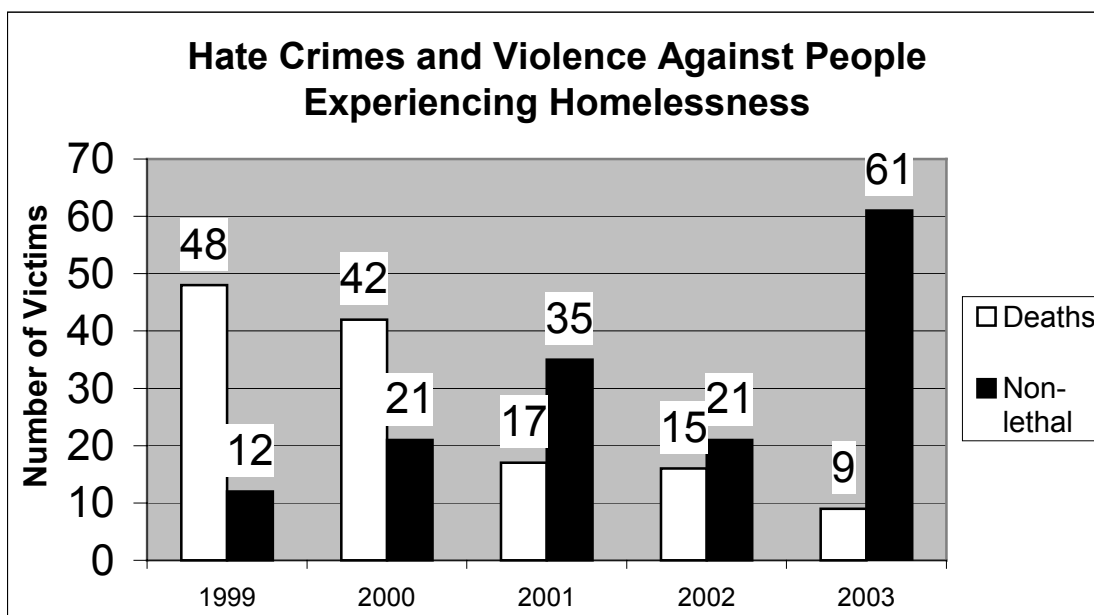
June 2004

HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

JUNE 2004

HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE DATA OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD (1999-2003):

Advocates, homeless shelter workers, and 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, NCH began publishing annual reports documenting hate crimes and violent attacks against people experiencing homelessness in 1999. 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.



1999 – 2003

Total number of violent acts over 5 years: 281

Total number of deaths over 5 years: 131

Total number of non-lethal attacks over 5 years: 150

Number of cities where crimes occurred: 119

Number of states, plus Puerto Rico, where crimes occurred: 38

Age ranges of the Accused/Convicted: from 11 to 65 years of age

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

Gender of Victims:

Male: 229 Female: 34

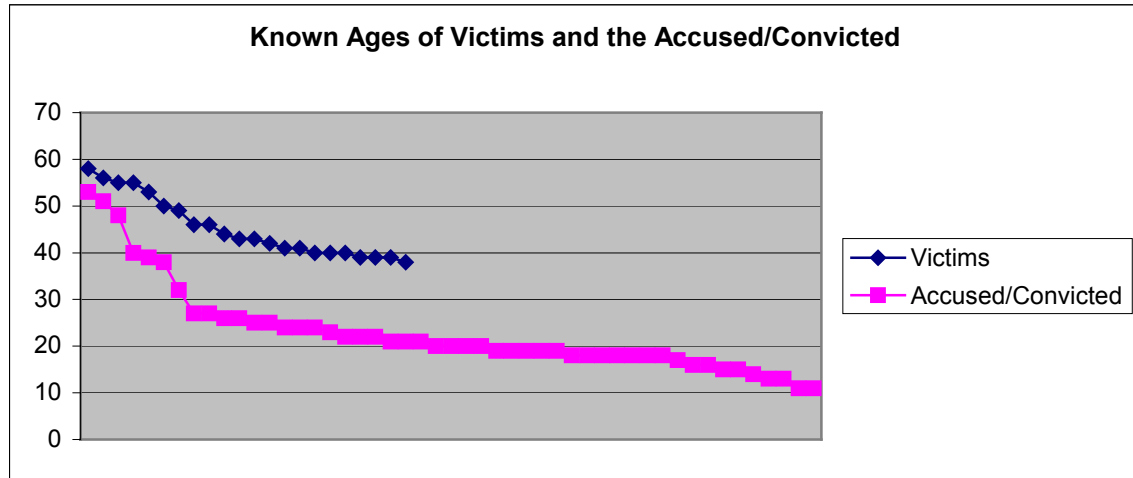
SUMMARY OF HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE DATA IN 2003

Total number of deaths: 9

Total number of victims who suffered from non-lethal violence: 61

Total number of cities: 36

Total number of states: 22 and Puerto Rico



Known ages of the victims:

58, 56, 55 (two), 53, 50, 49, 46 (two), 45 (two), 44, 43 (two), 42, 41 (two), 40 (three), 39 (three) and 38

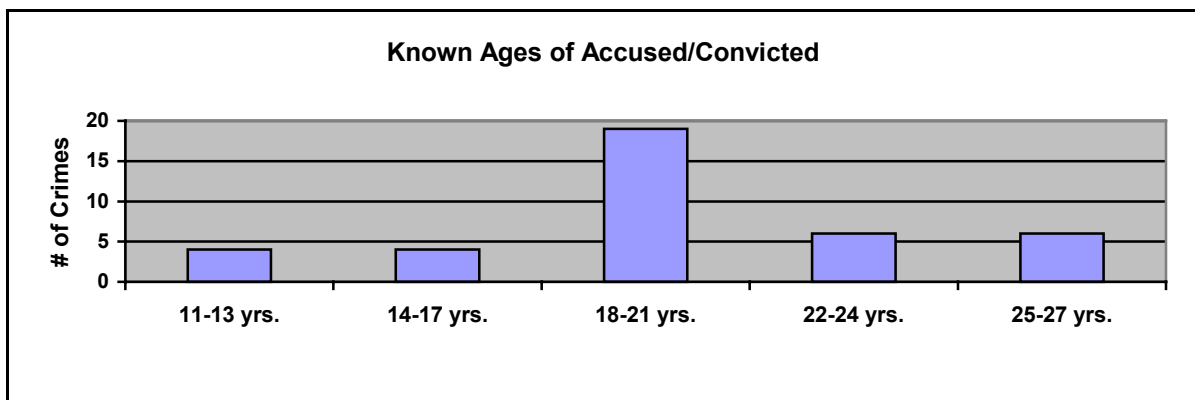
Gender of victims:

Male: 43

Female: 7

Known ages of the accused and convicted:

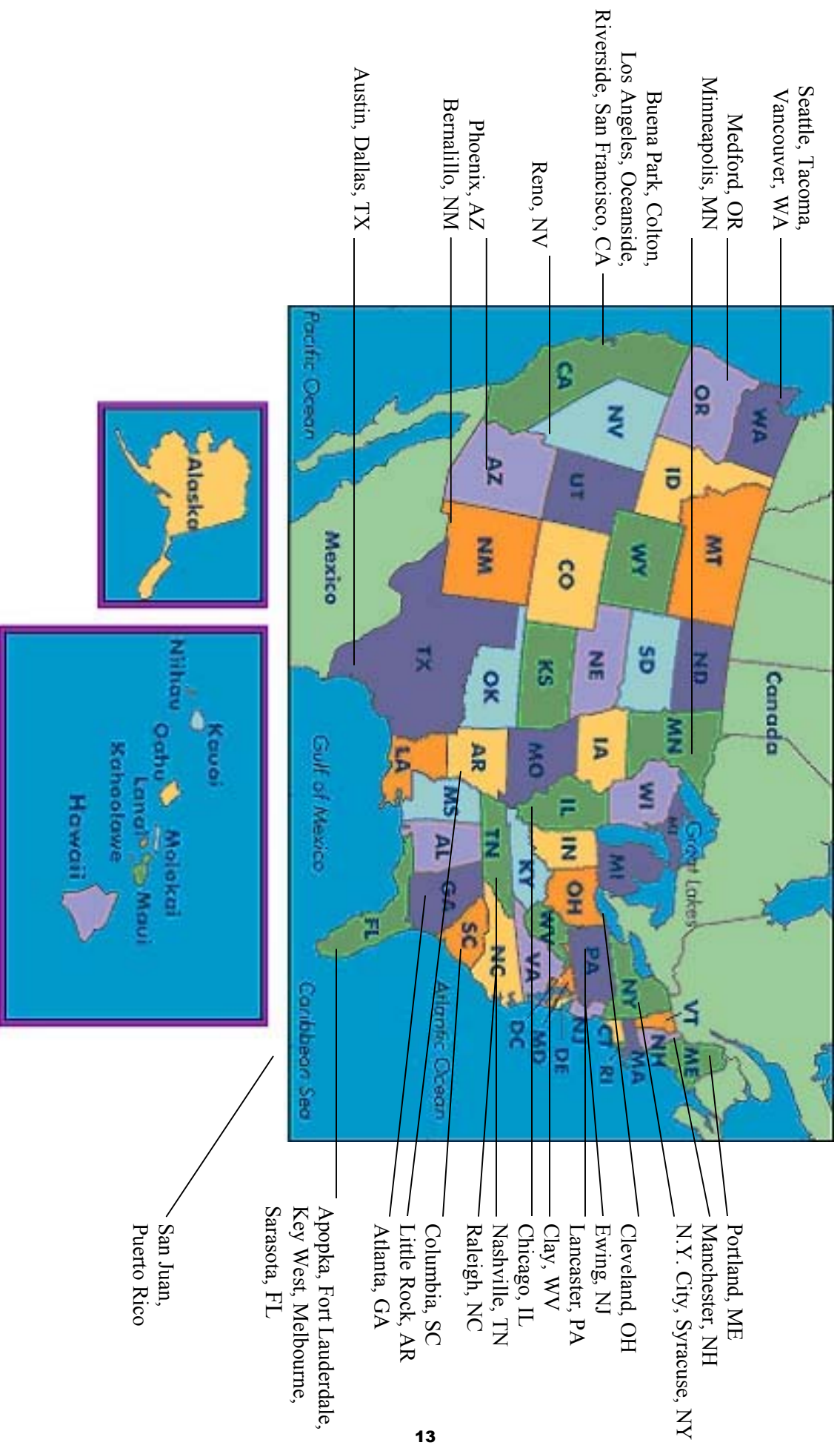
53, 51, 48, 40, 39, 38, 32, 27 (two), 26 (two), 25 (two), 24 (three), 23, 22 (three), 21 (three), 20 (four), 19 (five), 18 (seven), 17, 16 (two), 15 (two), 14, 13 (two) and 11 (two)



CITIES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2003:

Apopka, FL—1 incident.
Atlanta, GA—3 separate incidents resulting in 4 non-lethal acts.
Austin, TX—1 incident resulting in 6 non-lethal acts.
Bernalillo, NM—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Buena Park, CA—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Chicago, IL—10 separate incidents resulting in 10 non-lethal acts.
Clay, WV—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Cleveland, OH—7 separate incidents resulting in 7 non-lethal acts.
Colton, CA—1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Columbia, SC—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Dallas, TX—3 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.
Ewing, NJ—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Fort Lauderdale, FL—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Key West, FL—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Lancaster, PA—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Little Rock, AR—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Los Angeles, CA—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Manchester, NH—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Medford, OR—3 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.
Melbourne, FL—1 incident resulting in 1 death & 2 non-lethal acts.
Minneapolis, MN—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Nashville, TN—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
New York, NY—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Oceanside, CA—2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Phoenix, AZ—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Portland, ME—5 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.
Raleigh, NC—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Reno, NV—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Riverside, CA—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
San Francisco, CA—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
San Juan, PR—2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.
Sarasota, FL—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Seattle, WA—1 incident resulting in 1 death and 1 non-lethal act.
Syracuse, NY—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.
Tacoma, WA—1 incident resulting in 1 death.
Vancouver, WA—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

Cities Where Reported Hate and Violent Crimes Occurred in 2003



STATES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2003:

Arizona—1 incident in 1 city (Phoenix) resulting in 1 death.

Arkansas—1 incident in 1 city (Little Rock) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

California—7 separate incidents in 6 cities (Buena Park (1), Colton (1), Los Angeles (1), Oceanside (2), Riverside (1), and San Francisco (1) resulting in 2 deaths and 6 non-lethal acts.

Florida—5 separate incidents in 5 cities (Apopka (1), Fort Lauderdale (1), Key West (1), Melbourne (1), and Sarasota (1) resulting in 1 death and 5 non-lethal acts.

Georgia—3 separate incidents in 1 city (Atlanta) resulting in 4 non-lethal acts.

Illinois—10 separate incidents in 1 city (Chicago) resulting in 10 non-lethal acts.

Maine—5 separate incidents in 1 city (Portland) resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.

Minnesota—1 incident in 1 city (Minneapolis) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

Nevada—1 incident in 1 city (Reno) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

New Hampshire—1 incident in 1 city (Manchester) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

New Jersey—1 incident in 1 city (Ewing) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

New Mexico—1 incident in 1 city (Bernalillo) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

New York—2 separate incidents in 2 cities, New York City (1) and Syracuse (1) resulting in 1 death and 1 non-lethal act.

North Carolina—1 incident in 1 city (Raleigh) resulting in 1 death.

Ohio—7 separate incidents in 1 city (Cleveland) resulting in 7 non-lethal acts.

Oregon—3 separate incidents in 1 city (Medford) resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.

Pennsylvania—1 incident in 1 city (Lancaster) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

Puerto Rico—2 separate incidents in 1 city (San Juan) resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.

South Carolina—1 incident in 1 city (Columbia) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

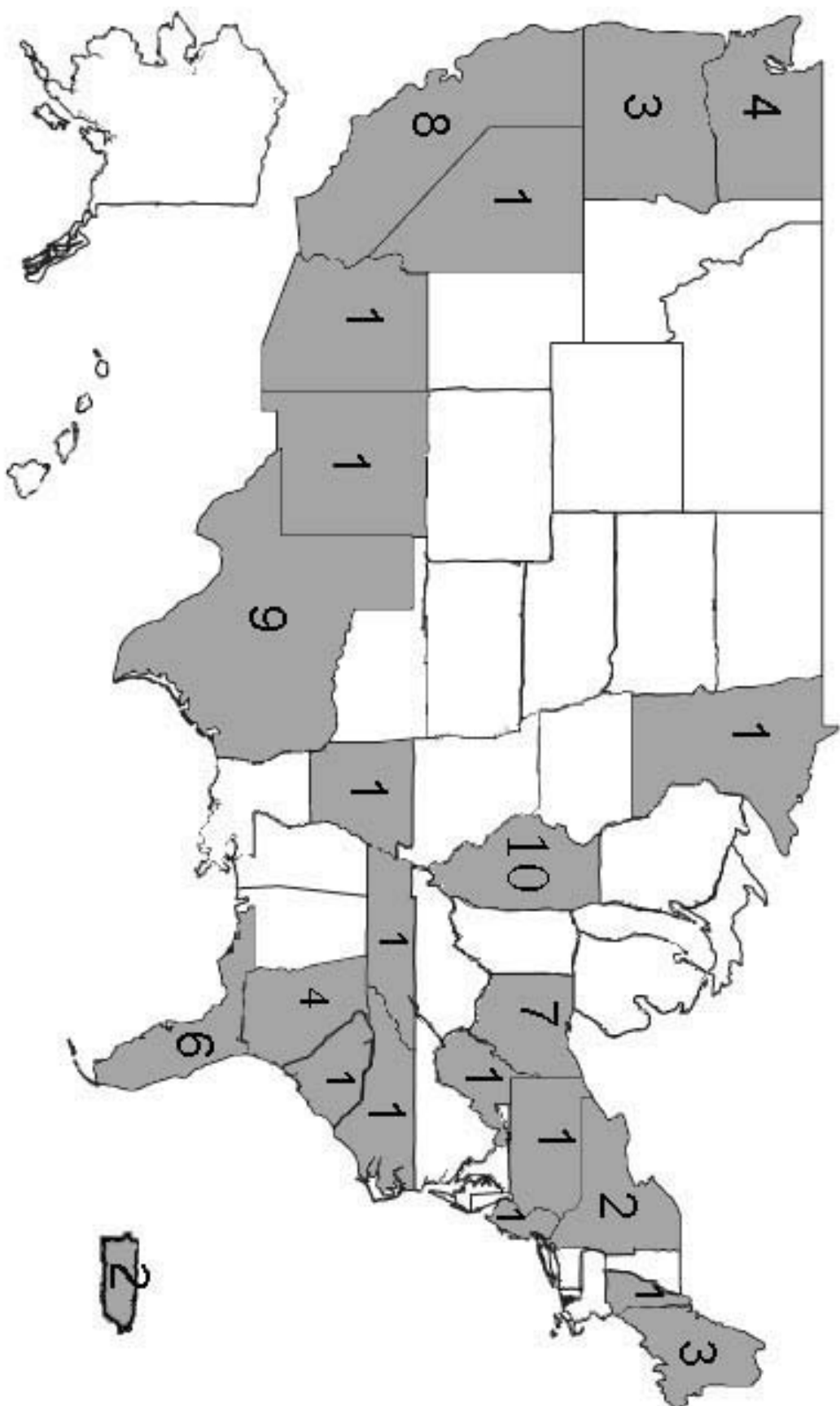
Tennessee—1 incident in 1 city (Nashville) resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

Texas—4 separate incidents in 2 cities, Austin (1) and Dallas (3) resulting in 9 non-lethal acts.

Washington—3 separate incidents in 3 cities, Seattle (1), Tacoma (1), and Vancouver (1) resulting in 2 deaths and 2 non-lethal acts.

West Virginia—1 incident in 1 city (Clay) resulting in 1 death.

State-by-State Breakdown of Homeless Deaths and Non-Lethal Acts in 2003



HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

JUNE 2004

The following accounts are examples of the brutality that people experiencing homelessness have faced. These accounts are taken from NCH's 2003 hate crime/violence report. The individual reports include all of the hate crime/violence accounts and can be found on NCH's website:

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/> under the publications link.

FOUR TEENS ATTACK AT LEAST SEVEN HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH STUN GUN

The perpetrators, aged 16 to 19, who videotaped the attack, used a 50,000-volt stun gun to shock their victims in their genitals; they also kicked them, and reportedly urinated on one of them, all while laughing.

Of the four accused, three are juveniles, and were charged with delinquency assault. The one adult, Joshua Langenheim, 19, was charged with six counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of possession of a criminal tool.

Brian Davis, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), was furious and said "We cannot tolerate a misdemeanor charge, we have to set an example. I want the County Prosecutor to use this case as an example to prosecute to the fullest extent that the law allows so as to deter other young people from attacking this vulnerable population that is forced to use the public space as a bedroom."

But in the state of Ohio, assaulting a homeless person is not seen to be, by law, a hate crime, according to City Prosecutor Sanford Watson.

Cleveland, Ohio - August 2003

VIOLENT HOMELESS ATTACKS

The past year in Portland has been particularly violent toward the homeless population. Groups of young males have attacked homeless men and women on several occasions. A brick hit one man while he slept. A woman had her campsite burned twice within two weeks. Two men and a woman had all of their belongings destroyed while they were camping. Police say that the majority of the attacks have been directed toward people staying in illegal campsites. One man had to have fifteen staples put into his head after he was beaten with bats while he slept in his tent.

Students from a local high school helped organize a march to bring awareness to the issue of hate crimes against the homeless.

THREE MEN REPORTEDLY ATTACK HOMELESS WOMAN WITH BASEBALL BATS

On May 17, three men beat Lori Johnson, a 41-year-old homeless woman, with baseball bats; when she was found, she was bleeding from her ears. According to a witness, Johnson screamed during the attacks, "Why are you all doing me like this? I didn't do anything."

Johnson fell into a coma and underwent surgery to relieve pressure on her brain. Several months later, she was experiencing constant headaches, nightmares, and weakness on the right side of her body. She was undergoing intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy at a rehabilitation center. As of July 27, her doctors said the rehabilitation could continue for months.

As of July 27, there had been no arrests, nor any determination of a motive behind the attacks. Johnson is described as respectful and lovely by a group of ten women who know her. She has received a great deal of support from the community. People have spent time with her in the hospital; they have tried to track down her friends and family; held a candlelight vigil; and have involved themselves in police investigations regarding the attack.

Minneapolis, Minnesota - May 2004

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. 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 who are experiencing homelessness.
3. 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 2004 (H.R. 4204—108th Congress).
4. Sensitivity/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.
5. A U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation 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; and community education, prevention and law enforcement strategies.

CASE DESCRIPTIONS

BY MONTH AND CITY IN 2003

JANUARY

Medford, Oregon

National Guardsmen Attack Homeless People; Police Call it a Hate Crime

Three National Guardsmen – Andrew Lee Patterson, 24, Aaron St. James, 26, and James Ritchie, 21 – were each involved in attacks on homeless people in January.

Patterson described the attacks as “missions” intended to clean up the community. Patterson and Ritchie attacked one homeless man on two separate occasions. During the first attack they called him a disgrace to his race while they claimed to have “white pride.” During the second attack they sneaked up behind the man and threatened to kill him for calling the police about the first attack. They then dragged him down an embankment so passing cars would not witness the attack and beat him with a wooden club so severely that he was hospitalized for skull fractures and deep cuts.

All three of the guardsmen attacked another homeless man on the night of Jan 30th. That same night they attacked an Indian motel owner because they believed him to be Arab. They were also suspected in harassing a group of African American teenagers.

Ritchie committed suicide after the attack on the motel owner. St. James plead guilty to charges of third-degree assault and first-degree intimidation. He was released from jail in July after serving more than 100 days. Patterson plead guilty to second- and third- degree assault. He was sentenced to five years and 10 months in prison under a mandatory minimum law. He was also ordered to pay Rogue Valley Medical Center \$19,000 to cover the medical costs of the homeless man he attacked. Patterson was involved in more of the attacks than St. James. Investigators believed that Ritchie had been the ringleader of the group.

Source: Associated Press, “Guardsmen Sentenced in Homeless Attacks,” Portland Observer, 8/20/03; The Associated Press, “Oregon Guardsmen charged in hate crime,” The Sun Herald, 2/1/03; Jeff Barnard, “Two Oregon Guardsmen Held on Hate Crime,” www.MaconTelegraph.com, 1/31/03; “Attacks end with suicide, one arrest,” Mail Tribune, 1/31/2003; “Final sentence levied in hate crime attack,” Mail Tribune, 8/14/2003; “Guardsman pleads guilty to hate attack,” Mail Tribune, 7/24/03.

Nashville, Tennessee

Three Men Set Homeless Man On Fire

A homeless man was hospitalized with second- and third- degree burns after reportedly being set on fire as he slept on January 14.

One man reportedly tossed a match on Albert Blanchard, 44, as he lay sleeping near Third Ave. and Broadway, setting Blanchard's clothes on fire and burning his arms and abdomen.

As of January 17, police were still investigating the incident, and no charges had been filed, nor had any suspects been named.

Source: Sheila Burke, "Match set homeless man afire," The Tennessean, 1/17/03.

New York, New York

Homeless Woman Raped, Murdered

A homeless Polish immigrant, Krystyna Moros, was allegedly raped and murdered on a rooftop in Borough Park. Moros was in her 40s.

Wilfredo Sempritt, 27, was arrested three days after the alleged attack and charged with rape, robbery, and murder. A *New York Daily News* article reported that it was "unclear what led" police to arrest Sempritt.

Sempritt's Brooklyn neighbors described him as a "shady" character; but his roommate, Miguel Collazo, said Sempritt was innocent.

According to a tenant in the building where Moros's body was found, Moros "kept to herself" and had been sleeping in the park on and off all summer. She had lost her children and husband in Poland.

Source: Elizabeth Hays and Michele McPhee, "Brooklyn man collared in rooftop rape, slaying," New York Daily News, 1/20/03.

Phoenix, Arizona

Homeless Man Attacked, Set on Fire, Killed

According to Phoenix Police Detective Tony Morales, Thomas Earl Finch, a 55-year-old homeless man, was stabbed several times, beaten on his head, and then set on fire.

His body was later found burning behind a restaurant on the night of January 24.

No suspects had been determined as of January 29, but police were reportedly searching for a white male, 25 to 28 years old, who was observed standing there on the sidewalk and talking on a cell phone when Finch was murdered.

Source: Judi Villa, "Police Seek Killer Who Stabbed, Set Transient Afire," The Arizona Republic, 1/29/03.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Police Officers Verbally, Physically Abuse Homeless Man

In two separate incidents, two police officers took a forty-year-old homeless man's wallet, gloves, two screwdrivers, and switchblade early January 24, and later that morning, four police officers stopped the same homeless man, spoke "foul language" against him, kicked him, punched him, and then allegedly threatened to "tear him apart," and, "if he talked," to move him out of town.

The man's head, face, and legs were wounded in the attack. The victim's name was not revealed, as he was reportedly concerned about potential backlash. Homeless advocates reportedly believed that the beating was unjustified.

Cieni Rodriguez, the president of the Coalition for Continued Support of the Homeless, said at a press conference, "We are indignant at this conduct," adding that the attacks were "symptomatic" of the disrespect given to homeless people.

Victor Rivera Gonzalez, the Police Superintendent, said, "I respect the homeless, which is a lifestyle, and I will act with a firm hand if I find there is any truth to the claim my officers acted inappropriately." He had created a protocol aimed to educate officers on how to resist "hate" motives. The protocol's implementation was still pending as a gay rights group wished to review it.

He also reportedly did not confirm or deny the attacks, and said, "carrying a switchblade [longer than two and a half inches] is illegal."

Glorin Marti, a member of the local homeless coalition, said she would propose Rivera establish "a public policy to avoid such brutality," among other things.

Source: Peggy Ann Bliss, "Alleged Police Brutality Incident Under Probe: Police officers accused of assaulting homeless man in Old San Juan," The San Juan Star, January 28, 2003; also, "Summary of news articles: 'Denuncian golpia de policies a un deambulante' y 'Denuncia de agresion policial contra un deambulante,' 2/03/03 (date of summary).

Sarasota, Florida

Homeless Man Beaten and Robbed by Six Youths

Six boys, ages 11 (two), 13 (two), 14 and 15, allegedly attacked and robbed a homeless man on January 2.

The boys were arrested and charged with felony robbery. In confessions given to police officers shortly after the attack, they said they beat Michael Poole, 49, and also stole his watch and wallet. One of the boys told police that they had gone out “looking for homeless people to rob.”

Poole, who sustained head injuries, was airlifted to the Bayfront Medical Center trauma center in St. Petersburg. In an interview from his hospital bed he said, “I didn’t do anything to provoke anybody.” He added, “They just came out of nowhere and started saying a bunch of cuss words and throwing rocks.”

Poole was unable to recall his attackers’ appearance, but several witnesses came forward with accounts that fit the descriptions of the six boys.

Sandra Steen, the mother of three of the boys, said, despite challenging some of the accusations, “The bottom line is that these boys should have been home, not on the streets,” and added, “They were running around looking for some trouble when they should have been home.”

According to the spokesman for the Sarasota Police Department, Jay Frank, these same males have perhaps been involved in additional attacks against homeless people, as well as auto burglaries – said Frank, “As soon as the boys were arrested, the homeless guys started talking” – though, as of January 7, investigations were ongoing.

Source: Mike Saewitz, “Six boys arrested in man’s beating; The boys, ages 11 to 15, were looking for homeless people to rob and found one, police reports say,” Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 1/4/03; Aaron Quinn, “Police seek links to other crimes; Six boys accused of hurting a homeless man also may have beaten others,” The Bradenton Herald, 1/7/03; Mike Saewitz and Robert Eckhart, “Case hinges on boys’ confessions; Six of the nine boys are charged in the Jan. 2 beating of a homeless man,” Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 1/15/03.

FEBRUARY

Columbia, South Carolina

Homeless Man Looking for Ride to Homeless Shelter; Robbed, Shot by Would-be Drivers

A homeless man was robbed and shot twice while he searched for a ride to a homeless shelter, according to Columbia Police Lt. Rafael Rodriguez.

Mustafa Shabazz flagged down a blue Taurus driven by three men, ages 20 to 25. After Shabazz entered the car they robbed him of the little money he had and then forced him out of the car. The men made him lie down on the pavement. As they drove away they shot at Shabazz and hit him in the knee and forearm.

Shabazz was brought to Palmetto Health Richland after a resident in the neighborhood, heard the gunfire and notified authorities. Shabazz was said to be in fair condition as of February 16, 2003.

Source: Kimathi Lewis, "Homeless man, two others shot: Hoping to get a ride to a homeless shelter but wasn't taken anywhere," The State Newspaper, 2/16/03.

Dallas, Texas

DART Transit Officers Attack Homeless

Two DART officers, McBride and Stinson, attacked homeless people in front of City Hall.

The incident was caused when a formerly homeless man, Edwardo Pawrra, was arrested for jaywalking. The individual is legally blind and suffers from brain damage due to an accident. The DART officers handcuffed Mr. Pawrra, then slammed his face into the officers' car, causing the man's mouth to burst open. Homeless witnesses complained about the officers' treatment of Mr. Pawrra, resulting in Officer McBride running from the car and spraying mace at them. A homeless man, Mr. Cane, started to run, but when he looked back he saw Officer McBride pulling his gun. Mr. Cane fell to his knees and put his hands up. Officer McBride pulled his billy club and hit him, sprayed him twice with mace, handcuffed him and continued to mace him. Mr. Williams, another homeless man, got up from where he was seated to ask the officer why he kept macing Mr. Cane. Mr. Williams was told to sit down and stay back. When he asked the officers for their name and badge number, he was approached with mace and handcuffed.

The incident was verified by witness accounts, including a City employee. Rebecca Brumely, a librarian with the Downtown Library, described the actions by the DART officers as a "Brutal Attack on the Homeless." She filed a complaint, but when she called DART a week later, the complaint was missing. The Supervisor, Lieutenant Rivera, said he knew nothing of an incident that resulted in the arrest of four homeless men.

Lieutenant Ruiz will be investigating the complaints against the two DART officers. One of the officers involved in the incident had a history of disciplinary actions while serving for the Dallas Police Department.

Source: "Brutal Attack," Endless Choices, March 2003.

Los Angeles, California

Homeless Man Attacked As He Slept

Larry Whitmarsh, a 53-year-old homeless man, was beaten at approximately 3 a.m. on February 18 as he slept at Turtle Rock Beach in Laguna Beach.

According to Whitmarsh, three males attacked him; they beat him with their fists, a bottle, and a stick. They also stole his jacket and wallet, but left additional valuables.

Discovered by a photographer several hours later, Whitmarsh, who was found to have “severe facial injuries,” according to Laguna Beach police Sgt. Greg Bartz, was airlifted to Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit.

As of February 18, 2003, Whitmarsh’s injuries prevented police from obtaining more information on the attacks, but Whitmarsh did tell police he didn’t know why he was assaulted.

As of February 19, suspects also had yet to be determined.

Source: “Homeless Man Beaten While Sleeping, Police Search For Suspects,” Staff Writers, NBC 4 TV News, 2/18/03; Times Staff Writer, “Orange County Homeless Man Is Badly Beaten,” Los Angeles Times, 2/19/03.

Riverside, California

Homeless Man Attacked, Dies Six Weeks Later

Five men attacked Dale Link, a 43-year-old homeless man, on the night of February 21. According to witnesses, Link’s attackers beat him and kicked him as he lay on the ground, and then fled before police appeared.

Link sustained serious head injuries, according to police, and died at San Bernardino Hospital on April 7, six weeks after the attack.

Four men Frank Taylor, 18, Michael Ellison, 21, Jeremy Hitchens, 22, and Thomas Camenga, 25, were arrested. Police indicated that more arrests were possible.

Source: Local Briefs, “Homeless man’s beating nets arrests,” The Press-Enterprise, 3/28/03; Local, “Homeless Riverside man dies 6 weeks after beating,” The Press-Enterprise, 4/9/03.

MARCH

Colton, California

Two Homeless Men Attacked

On March 31, four men attacked two homeless men, ages 46 and 55. The assailants approached the men in an alley and asked them where they were from. When the homeless men did not respond, they were attacked.

The men were beaten and kicked; they were transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment.

As of April 2, the victims' conditions were unavailable, and police said they had yet to make any arrests.

Source: Elena Arnold and Katie E. Ismael, "Attack hospitalizes two homeless men," Police and Fire Reports, The Press-Enterprise, 4/2/03.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Homeless Man Stabbed at Pizza Shop

On March 10 at 3:15 pm, Julio Flores, a 39-year-old homeless man, was stabbed once in the abdomen at a Domino's Pizza, according to police.

Lancaster City Police Detective, Lt. Sam Gatchell said, "An argument started inside the pizza shop and ended with Flores being stabbed." He added, "Several witnesses have said they saw what happened, but so far they've been unable to positively identify the men involved."

As of Monday, no arrests had been made, but two Hispanic men, who escaped the scene after attacking Flores, were reported to have been involved in the assault. Police, alerted to the attack by a Domino's Pizza employee, found Flores lying in a pool of blood, unresponsive.

According to police, Flores, who often panhandled in the area where he was attacked, was intoxicated when he was assaulted.

Victoria Kelly, who had been picking up food from Domino's Pizza just before the stabbing, said that prior to the attack, Flores had been inside the restaurant asking for money.

As of that Monday night, Flores was in critical condition at Lancaster General Hospital, where he had undergone surgery earlier, according to Lancaster city police Detective Lt. Sam Gatchell.

Source: Brett Lovelace, "Stabbing leaves man 'critical'; Panhandler attacked at restaurant in city," Intelligencer Journal, 3/11/03.

Tacoma, Washington

Four People Attack Homeless Man; He Later Dies From Head Injuries

Four people beat to death a homeless man who had suffered from mental illness, allegedly as part of a white supremacist gang initiation on March 23, 2003.

Randall Townsend, 42, died from head injuries on April 12 after Kurtis Monschke, 19, David Pillatos, 19, Scotty Butters, 20, and Tristain Frye, 22, assaulted him with a baseball

bat, among other things. Pillatos reportedly hit Townsend in the face so hard that the bat broke.

Police say the defendants planned the attack so that one of them could earn red shoelaces in the white supremacist movement. The victim, however, was white.

The other three attackers then punched and kicked Townsend, after which Pillatos reportedly dropped a boulder on his face. Townsend, knocked unconscious, would not regain consciousness before dying several weeks later.

Though Townsend reportedly has no criminal history of drug use, police suspected that a reported dislike for drug users had been the motive for the attack.

Beryl Neimeyer, the mother of a boyhood friend of Townsend's said, "I'm terribly saddened about it." She added, "He was a real nice young man."

Other friends said he kept to himself and did not look for trouble.

In September, it was announced that Pierce County Prosecutor Gerry Horne would not seek the death penalty for the accused. Said Horne, "We have to compare that crime against other murders." He added, "And have we seen worse crimes than this where we didn't seek it? Sure we have." Horne did say, though, that this attack was a horrible crime, though "most murders," he said, "are horrible crimes."

All four attackers, who allegedly believed drug users and homeless people to be "parasites on society," were charged with aggravated first-degree murder. John O'Melveny, one of Frye's two attorneys, said, "All of the defendants are still looking for life without parole, and when you're 20 or 21, that's a long time."

In June 2004, 20-year-old Kurtis Monschke was convicted of aggravated first-degree murder in the death of 42-year-old Randall Townsend. Since prosecutors did not seek the death penalty, the only possible sentence is life in prison without the possibility of release.

Monschke testified that he didn't take part in the beating, and never believed such an attack would give him status in the movement he called "radicalism." Jurors said they didn't believe Monschke when he said he had only poked Townsend with a bat to see if he was OK. They had listened to almost three weeks of testimony, and deliberated for more than two days before agreeing to convict Monschke as charged.

David Pillatos, 20; Scotty Butters, 21; and Tristain Frye, 23, all pleaded guilty to lesser charges in the crime and testified in Monschke's trial.

Source: Associated Press, "Four charged in beating death of homeless man," April 16, 2003; Stacey Mulick, "Homeless Tacoma man dies from March attack," The News Tribune, 4/15/03; Karen Hucks, "Prosecutor will not seek death penalty in transient's slaying; Green River killings search continues; White Supremacists: Trial set for February," The News Tribune, 9/19/03; Street Roots, "Murder of Seattle Homeless Man Linked to White Supremacists," 4/1/04; "Supremacist guilty of murder in beating death of homeless man," The News Tribune, 6/1/04.

APRIL

Clay, West Virginia

Homeless Man Attacked, By Three Or More Youths

Joey “Crow” Smith, a 38-year-old homeless man, was beaten on April 2. He died at Braxton County Memorial Hospital after falling over an embankment the previous evening as he walked up the steps to the shack where he stayed.

As of April 10, it was unclear whether any link existed between the alleged beating and Smith’s subsequent death.

According to Clay County Sheriff Harald Fields, a Rite Aid employee witnessed three or more youths beating Smith. When she threatened to call the police, the youths dispersed.

Fields said Smith was discovered by a sheriff’s deputy and a Clay town police officer after his fall. He had sustained an apparent injury to his head, and was taken to Braxton County Memorial Hospital.

Clay Mayor, Arthur Jarett confirmed that Smith had been beaten before by local youths.

Source: Scott Finn, “Police investigate Clay man’s death,” Charleston Gazette, 4/10/03.

Reno, Nevada

Homeless Man Beaten, Stabbed As He Slept

Three men said to be white males in their late teens or early twenties beat and stabbed Martin Salinas, a 58-year-old homeless man, as he slept on April 24.

Salinas underwent abdominal surgery, and as of April 25, was said to be in fair condition at the Washoe Medical Center.

As of April 26, Reno police were viewing the assault as an attempted murder. They had yet to make any arrests.

Salinas did not think his assailants were homeless, judging by their grooming and dress.

Source: Staff Report, “\$2,000 reward offered in stabbing,” *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 4/26/03.

MAY

Key West, Florida

Four Young Males Attack Homeless Man

A homeless man was left with scars across his neck and shoulder after four young males abused him verbally, doused him with water, and beat him with trash cans and a steel sign.

The victim wanted his name withheld in published reports on the attack, saying, “It’s humiliating to be beaten.”

The Reverend Stephen Braddock, president of the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, wrote in a letter to US Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, “This is not the first time that a violent act has been committed against a homeless person but it is one of the most hateful incidents I am aware of.”

He added, “I am requesting your assistance in seeking a U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation into the nature and scopes of violent acts and hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness.”

“A GAO investigation 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,” he continued.

Ros-Lehtinen, in turn, wrote a letter to David M. Walker, the comptroller general for the GAO.

“A GAO investigation would assist Congress and the public in finding ways we can prevent all future attacks on homeless and defenseless citizens in our community,” she wrote.

The victim was described as being clean, sober, and employed, and had been homeless for just a month when attacked.

According to the victim, he was attacked because of stereotypes held against the homeless, which he called unwarranted.

Samuel Kaufman, the victim’s attorney, said, “A lot of people get accustomed to being taken advantage of, or of being abused or not getting relief from people in authority.”

He added, "It's a matter of giving up on getting any relief in general. That's an overriding approach for many homeless people. People who are homeless don't expect to be given any breaks."

He said, too, "This could happen to anybody, especially down here."

"That's why homeless services are so essential."

As of June 7, three of the four perpetrators had not been found; one of the perpetrators, an 18-year-old, had been arrested and charged.

The victim has pressed charges against this 18-year-old, and as of June 2003, was taking out a restraining order to prevent further harassment.

Source: Alyson Matley, "Probe possible into homeless abuse: Key West beating spurs representative to approach GAO," www.keynoter.com; letter to Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, written by Reverend Stephen Braddock, May 22, 2003.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Three Men Reportedly Attack Homeless Woman With Baseball Bats

On May 17, three men beat Lori Johnson, a 41-year-old homeless woman, with baseball bats; when she was found she was bleeding from her ears.

According to a witness, Johnson screamed during the attacks, "Why are you all doing me like this? I didn't do anything."

Johnson fell into a coma and underwent surgery to relieve pressure on her brain. Several months later, she was experiencing constant headaches, nightmares, and weakness on the right side of her body. She was undergoing intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy at a rehabilitation center. As of July 27, her doctors said her rehabilitation could continue for months.

As of July 27, there had been no arrests, nor any determination of a motive behind the attacks.

Johnson is described as respectful and lovely by a group of ten women who know her. She has received a great deal of support from the community. People have spent time with her in the hospital; they have tried to track down her friends and family; held a candlelight vigil; and have involved themselves in police investigations regarding the attack.

She had even been offered a place to stay once she was able to leave the rehabilitation center.

Source: David Chanen, "Friends gather to help beaten homeless woman," Star Tribune, May 31, 2003; David Chanen, "From the streets to a new life: Beating victim leans on some people who care," Star Tribune, July 27, 2003.

JUNE

Austin, Texas

Homeless People Hit in Drive-By Shootings

Three men were arrested after allegedly shooting a total of six homeless people in a series of drive-by shootings in June. The assailants used a pellet gun in their attacks.

Leopoldo Flores, David Rodriguez, and Tom Renteria were charged with committing the offense of “Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity and Assault with Injury.” At the time of the attacks, felony charges were a possibility.

Source: Richard R. Troxell, “Homeless Persons Victims of Hate Crime!” Austin Advocate, Aug. 2003.

Chicago, Illinois

Homeless People Used, Abused by Insurance Fraud Ringleaders

Leaders of an insurance fraud ring enlisted homeless people to pose as accident victims and broke their arms or legs with an ax handle. They then paid them “anything from nothing to \$1,500 on \$10,000 to \$100,000 in insurance settlements, that the assailants received by pretending to be the victims’ relatives, according to Detective Ken Bigg.

These insurance settlements accumulated hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to detectives.

According to Bigg, insurance fraud ring members would seek out those at homeless shelters willing to pose as auto accident victims. Then, “they would take them to a garage and put their arm on a stone block, and they would smash the arm,” often with an axe said Bigg.

They would then bring the victims to the fake accident scene and dial 911.

As of June 7, investigators believed that these incidents, six of which were documented over the course of 7 months, had been occurring for much more than 7 months.

Homeless shelter authorities had reported the increase in homeless shelter residents with broken arms or legs, which alerted police to the scheme.

Michael Garner, 39, who would often serve as the assailant, was charged with fraud and aggravated battery; the two alleged ringleaders, Kendrick Moore, 53, and Marlon Cole, 32, in addition to the three alleged drivers, were charged with fraud.

Source: The Associated Press, "6 Charged in Alleged Insurance Fraud Ring," Saturday, June 7, 2003.

Vancouver, Washington

Homeless Man Verbally, Physically Attacked

Two men assaulted and verbally abused a homeless man on June 25.

Kevin Haynie, 22, and Dennis Barker, 24, stole a longhaired wig off the head of Kenneth Gaudin, and then attacked and directed a homophobic remark against him after he requested that the wig be returned, according to a police report.

Barker pleaded guilty to one count of felony harassment in November of 2003, while Haynie, charged with two counts of second-degree assault and two counts of malicious harassment, pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree assault in September of 2003.

In Washington, malicious harassment is comparable to a hate crime.

Source: Holley Gilbert, "Second guilty plea reached in attack on homeless man," The Oregonian, 11/06/03.

JULY

Bernalillo, New Mexico

Homeless Woman Sexually Assaulted By Man Pretending To Be Police Officer

A man pretending to be a police officer took a homeless woman to his vehicle and sexually assaulted her on the morning of July 20, according to authorities.

As of July 26, the suspect, who was said to be approximately 38 years old, had yet to be determined.

According to police, the suspect awakened a homeless couple sleeping at what was said to be a makeshift campsite. He said he was a police officer and asked them both for identification; he then took the woman to his vehicle, and told the man to stay put.

The suspect "forced the woman into his vehicle, drove her to a desert location, and sexually assaulted her" (Albuquerque Journal).

He had initially told the woman he wanted to perform a warrant check.

Source: Journal Staff Report, "Police Seek Man in Sex Assault," Albuquerque Journal, 7/26/03.

Ewing, New Jersey

Group of Teenage Males Shoot Homeless Man With Paintball Gun; Homeless Man Loses Eye

On July 15, a homeless man lost his left eye when he was shot by a group of teenage males carrying paintball guns.

Kevin Smith, 41, was walking along a street when a car, its lights off, reportedly stopped near him. Four or five black males exited the car and yelled, “hey, white boy.”

Smith eventually turned and was then shot in the face.

Though Smith tried to flee his attackers, they eventually reached him and continued to fire shots at him – approximately 20 paintball pellets would ultimately be fired – until they returned to their car and drove away.

His eye, face, hands and forearms injured, Smith was first taken to Capital Health System at Fuld, and then to Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, where his ruptured eye was surgically removed.

A day after the incident, Ewing Police and the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office were investigating the attack and looking at it as a “bias crime,” according to authorities.

Source: Associated Press, “Teens armed with paintball guns attack, injure homeless man,” 7/16/03.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Homeless Woman Struck By Car; Homeless Advocate Challenges Police Report

In what police initially determined to be an accident, a 39-year-old homeless woman was struck by a car driven by a 20-year-old white male and another un-named white male passenger, breaking her leg, according to police, on July 9, 2003.

Patty Lindeman, the Director of Hunger-Free Arkansas, Inc., in a written report, challenged the police report on several grounds: though the police said the victim was intoxicated at the time of the incident, Lindeman contends she was sober; she also writes that the victim’s injuries were more severe than police described them to be; and the incident was not an accident, but “a deliberate, premeditated violent crime, racially motivated against Ms. Drones, who was not known to the [perpetrator], but a random victim attacked because she was black and vulnerable.”

Lindeman wrote that she had gathered her own information by speaking with the victim and the eyewitnesses, whom, at the time of the report, she had “known...for 3 years.”

“I believe the accounts of those present,” she wrote in her challenge, “although I realize that everything I have heard from them is hearsay.” She added that she believed that the police did not adequately interview the victims and the witnesses because they “are homeless and mostly (75%, in [her] experience) African-American & other protected minorities.”

As of August 25, according to Lindeman, Drones remained disabled, unable to walk short distances without a walker; she had also been refused access to shelters as they do not allow sick, injured, or handicapped persons, and in most cases, women, to reside there.

Source: “Points of Disputation Regarding LRDP Report of 7/09/2003, Gladys Drones & Eyewitnesses vs. Kurt Christian Busch and LRPD, August 25, 2003; Arkansas Motor Vehicle Collision Report #03-85517.

Seattle, Washington

Homeless Woman Shot to Death

Sandra Lee Smiscon, a forty-five-year-old homeless woman, was shot and killed as she slept under the Yesler Way overpass on July 12 at 3 am. A male friend who slept beside her was also shot, but survived.

On July 13, the *Seattle Times* reported that both victims were shot by a man said to be in his 30s or 40s, according to police.

Also reported on July 13, Seattle police spokeswoman Carmen Best said, “It’s too early to determine if [the shooting] was random or deliberate.”

As of July 17, 2003, the crime’s motive had yet to be determined.

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer Staff, “Police look into slaying of homeless woman,” Wednesday, July 16, 2003; Nicole Brodeur, “Homeless deaths met with apathy,” Seattle Times, July 17, 2003; article in The Seattle Times, Sunday, July 13, 2003.

AUGUST

Chicago, Illinois

Four Teenagers Beat and Stole from Four Homeless Men in Videotaped Attacks

Four teenage males attacked four homeless men, beating and robbing them on August 14 at approximately 10 PM.

The perpetrators videotaped the attacks, and though they said that their victims willingly took part in what they called a documentary, police later determined after speaking with the victims that the attacks were not staged, but real.

Les Brown, policy director for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless said, “It’s sick,” and added, “The viciousness of it. What’s making our kids or anybody do this kind of thing?”

The accused assailants – two 18-year-olds and one 16-year-old were all charged with felonies. One attacker had yet to be found as of September 2.

Source: David Heinzmann, “Teens tape selves beating homeless men, cops say,” Chicago Tribune, August 19, 2003; Eric Ferkenhoff, “Harsher penalties sought for attacks on homeless,” The Boston Globe, September 2, 2003.

Cleveland, Ohio

Four Teenagers Reportedly Attack At Least Seven Homeless People With Stun Gun

Four teenagers traveled from Youngstown to Cleveland in order to use a skateboard park. Before they left Youngstown they attacked two homeless men and continued the attacks in Cleveland. The boys attacked five homeless people who were sleeping in Public Square.

The perpetrators, who videotaped the attack, used a 50,000-volt stun gun to shock their victims in their genitals; they also kicked them, and reportedly urinated on one of them, all while laughing.

The teenagers, aged 16 to 19, were apprehended after a homeless man told motorist Joseph Wright, 35, about the attacks; Wright then alerted police.

Sgt. Ray Burner said, “I’ve never seen anything like it in 18 years, except on TV.” He added, “Did you ever see the movie ‘Jackass?’ Well, that’s essentially what we’re talking about.”

Of the four accused, three are juveniles, and were charged with delinquency assault. The one adult, Joshua Langenheim, 19, was charged with six counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of possession of a criminal tool.

Though his lawyer protested the notion that Langenheim led the attack, the prosecutor, Sanford Watson, said, “It was his weapon and at least two of the juveniles involved gave statements indicating that Mr. Langenheim was, in fact, directing their actions.” He added, “He was the only adult directing the juveniles.”

Brian Davis, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), was furious that the charges brought against Langenheim were not more

severe. “We cannot tolerate a misdemeanor charge,” he said, and added, “We have to set an example.”

He also said, “I want the County Prosecutor to use this case as an example to prosecute to the fullest extent that the law allows so as to deter other young people from attacking this vulnerable population that is forced to use the public space as a bedroom.”

Davis suggested Langenheim be charged with either felony crimes or attempted murder.

NEOCH also proposed, in the same news release that, among other things, Prosecutor William Mason “charge the youth with attempted murder and prosecute this as a hate crime and not as a simple prank.”

But in the state of Ohio, assaulting a homeless person is not seen to be, by law, a hate crime, according to City Prosecutor Sanford Watson.

Moreover, “The reality is that most of the crimes against homeless people are not reported,” says Davis, “because the people who sleep on the streets are isolated, and feel their stories will not be...taken seriously by the authorities.”

“Reaction to the attacks was far reaching,” said Davis. “This seems to be a rising problem,” and added, “We’re certainly going to pursue this. We’ve been asking the Justice Department to look into the increase in hate crimes against homeless people, and we’ll certainly use this as an example.”

Davis also called the teenage attackers “young terrorists.”

Said Joel Fox of the Jewish Community Federation, “We need to take steps to demonstrate Ohio’s determination to combat hatred.”

U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) wrote a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft in which he described homeless people as “the most vulnerable citizens in our society” and urged Ashcroft to examine crimes committed against people experiencing homelessness.

“As cruel and outrageous as these attacks are,” he wrote, “we know these are not isolated incidents.”

“Please initiate an investigation into these attacks on homeless persons and take all necessary action to ensure that the laws are enforced to protect the homeless.”

NEOCH, in cooperation with InterAct Cleveland, held a prayer breakfast on August 16 in response to the attacks and “to show those who were attacked on Public Square this last weekend that we care,” according to a release on the event. “No one, including those who are homeless, should feel fear on the streets of Cleveland.”

At the breakfast, Cleveland’s mayor, Jane Campbell, said she would take all possible measures to prosecute the four perpetrators; she has also committed to an attempt to add the homeless to state hate crime laws.

Sam Brown, who “has experience with homelessness,” according to the *Homeless Grapevine* (for which he is a vendor), wrote in this paper, “Not that ‘we’ all felt it, it was no joke to stun or tease a person no matter their race or because of the fact that they were sleeping in the streets. Being homeless, helpless, or just plain down and out is no reason to torment.”

“Where is our compassion in this day and age? Where is the love for humanity? Where is the individual that had cared about life, and let people live without having to ‘stun’ a person as they slept on the streets?”

On November 3, Langenheim was sentenced to 540 days in the Cleveland House of Correction, fined \$2,000 and told he must complete 150 hours of community service. However, Cleveland Municipal Judge C. Ellen Connally suspended his sentence; Langenheim would only have to stay at the House of Correction for 90 days and pay a \$700 fine; he would also be under house arrest for 90 days. His community service requirement would still stand.

Said Judge Connally to Langenheim, “If I could order it, I’d order no Thanksgiving dinner, no Christmas dinner while you are [in jail]. You don’t deserve it.”

Said Langenheim, “I don’t know if this was the downfall...or the turning point in my life.”

“All I know is that I look at things differently.”

In March 2004, the three Youngstown teens pled guilty and were sentenced to six months of community service on the weekend. The Coalition in Cleveland again raised the issue that this was an unsatisfactory punishment.

Two men came forward, 46-year-old James “Ziggy” Muro and James Holloway, to report their victimization.

Source: Lila J. Mills, “Attack on homeless tough to prosecute,” The Plain Dealer, 8/17/03; Amanda Garrett, “Teenager is sentenced in attack on homeless,” The Plain Dealer, 11/04/03; Bernie Powell Jackson, “Violence against the homeless,” Witness for Justice Website (www.ucc.org/justice/witness/wjf092903.htm); John Cartwright, “Advice for the Homeless Stun Gun Attackers,” The Homeless Grapevine #63, Dec. 2003/Jan. 2004; Lila J. Mills, “Misdemeanor charges stun homeless advocate,” The Plain Dealer, 8/12/03; Sam Y. Brown, “Stun Gun Attack Demonstrates Shift in Attitude,” The Homeless Grapevine #63, Dec. 2003/Jan 2004; Local – NewsNet5, “Man Accused of Attacking Homeless Nearly Cries,” 8/12/03; “Ohio teens accused of stun-gun attacks,” USA Today, 8/11/03; Untitled, Washington Post, 8/11/03; Associated Press, “Teens Accused of Homeless Stun-Gun Attacks”; Scott Stephens, “Teens face stun-gun assault charges,” The Plain Dealer, 8/10/03; NEOCH Press Release, “Homeless Coalition Calls on Strong Response to Hate Crime Directed at Homeless People,” 8/10/03; letter to Prosecutor William Mason, written by Brian Davis, 8/10/03; Cleveland Cares Prayer Breakfast Press Release; Staff Writer, “Lawyer for homeless man knows meaning of adversity,” The Plain Dealer, 9/11/03; “Attacked on Public Square!” The Homeless Grapevine #62; Associated Press, “Kucinich responds to homeless attacks; Ohio Democrat requests federal investigation into trend after Youngstown teens are arrested,” Akron Beacon Journal, 8/12/03;

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Homeless Man Beaten By Police Officers

Laura Hansen, CEO of Broward's Coalition for the Homeless, was running late for a meeting on August 28. But before she could reach the meeting, she became witness to an attack on a homeless person.

Two police officers – Stephen Littlefield, a veteran, and Jeff Richie, a rookie in training – were reportedly being investigated as the alleged attackers of Mike Sorcinelli, 56, as of September 6, 2003.

Said Hansen of what she witnessed, "They smashed him down face first into the concrete several times."

She added, "He was bleeding terribly...It was so freaking brutal, I tell you, and I've seen a lot of brutal stuff in my life. It was bad."

Howard Finkelstein, a public defender and acquaintance of Hansen's, said, "There's no reason I would doubt anything she would say, and what she says is shocking, it's outrageous, it's a crime."

Said Hansen, "I feel a sense of righteous anger, like something has to be done and someone has to pay."

Police Capt. Steve Robitaille and the head of Internal Affairs said, "There not only is an open criminal investigation but there is an open internal investigation." Littlefield has reportedly been subject to Internal Affairs complaints before.

Said Sorcinelli, "I didn't come here to be a bum," and added, "I didn't come here to be humiliated." He added, "To them it was a kick. It was a kick for them. Because no one's going to believe you. No one's going to believe you. You're just...." His voice trailed off.

According to Sorcinelli, these conflicts with the police he has experienced have "been going on for 10 years," and have left him with several lasting physical injuries. He has been arrested before, but not for violent activity. "It's insane," he said. "What they did to me is inhumane."

Fort Lauderdale does not always embrace the homeless within the city. Said Hansen, "When it comes down to it, if you're a chronic homeless person, they want you out."

"And they'll do anything to get you out. And Mike [Sorcinelli] is the perfect example of that."

The Police department runs a homeless outreach and crisis intervention program that Officer Scott Russell coordinates. Russell said, “We want to change the attitude of officers out there that homeless people aren’t problem people. They’re people with problems.”

But Hansen said, “All this stuff about [the police’s] changed policy, which I was buying all this time, is a bunch of bull----.”

Source: Brittany Wallman, “Officers beat homeless man in Fort Lauderdale, witness says,” South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 9/6/03.

Manchester, New Hampshire

Homeless Man Beaten and Robbed

Greg Smith, a forty-five year old homeless man, was beaten and robbed of his wallet by a group of men in a parking lot on, August 18.

According to witnesses, Smith was surrounded by at least four people at the time of the attack, and police think the attackers then drove away in a maroon Dodge or an Intrepid.

Source: “Police Investigate robbery, beating of homeless man,” Union Leader, 8/20/03.

Melbourne, Florida

Two Teenage Males Beat Homeless Man to Death

Two teenage males attacked Bill Burge, a 50-year-old homeless man, and two of his friends, on August 18 according to police.

Burge, who, according to police, was beaten with beer bottles, a chair, and the assailants’ feet, suffered a fatal head injury in the attack.

James Marshall Williams, a friend of Burge’s and also a victim of the assault, alerted police to the attack. Williams sustained lacerations on his hand and face.

Philip Guccione, 18, and Ryan Jastrow, 19, were arrested and charged with second-degree murder and aggravated battery on August 20.

They appeared in court on August 21, were ordered held without bail, and were scheduled to appear again on September 19.

As of August 21, police had yet to verify details of the assault.

Source: James Dean, “Judge denies teens bail,” Florida Today, 8/22/03.

Syracuse, New York

Male Youths Attack and Steal From a Homeless Man

A group of male youths attacked Vincent Cheff, a 39-year-old homeless man, on August 27, Cheff told police. He received treatment at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center.

According to a police report, Cheff said that 15-20 men, most of whom were teenagers and some of whom were in their 30s, approached him, whereupon the older men told the teenagers to assault him. The youths chased Cheff, and when they caught him, they knocked him down, kicked him, punched him, and stole \$67 from his pocket.

Source: "Homeless man tells police of attack by young men," The Post Standard/Herald-Journal," 8/29/03.

SEPTEMBER

Apopka, Florida

Police Charged with Firing Pepper Balls at Homeless

Six police officers in Apopka face charges for firing pepper balls into a homeless camp. Although a number of homeless people live in the camp, no one was there at the time.

An internal investigation showed that the officers had violated a number of department regulations in the September 2003 incident at the camp. The violations/citations included: not immediately reporting the incident to a supervisor, excessive force, conduct unbecoming an officer, abusive or unprofessional conduct, misconduct and lying.

The penalties the current officers will face have not been determined.

One officer said that this incident was not the only time pepper balls had been fired into the camp.

Source: "Six Officers May Be Rebuked for Pepperering Homeless Camp," Orlando Sentinel, 1/01/04; Street Sense, 1/15/04.

Oceanside, California

Homeless People Reveal They Have Been Victims of Police Brutality

Six young men attacked Woodie Lee, a homeless man, and broke his jaw.

Police witnessed the assault, but did not intervene, according to La Dena Bean, who herself was experiencing homelessness as of September 18, 2003.

In a separate incident, police officers threw Christopher Hill, also homeless, to the ground, despite his compliance with their orders. He sustained an injury to his left shoulder.

On September 17, five homeless people and a homeless advocate from StandUp for Kids, an agency that works with homeless teenagers, told the City Council that homeless people have been subject to police brutality and harassment.

Police Chief Mike Poelhman said that he had not heard of any instances of such brutality, and that police are not deliberately targeting the homeless.

“Obviously,” he said, “we’re not going to allow officers to brutalize.”

Lee responded by saying, “I’m a scapegoat for the Police Department,” and added “They look at us as outcasts. They kick us off the beach. We’re looked upon as a disease upon the city of Oceanside.”

Kyle Moore, a homeless male, reportedly said he is regularly hassled. Yet he added, “in eight years in this city, I have committed no crimes. I had done nothing against the law.”

Source: Lola Sherman, “Homeless tell of abuse by police; Oceanside council hears complaints from 5 of them,” The San Diego Union-Tribune, 9/18/03.

Raleigh, North Carolina

Homeless Man Reportedly Hit With Piece of Asphalt, Later Dies

Five people attacked James Lee Dudley, a 40-year-old homeless man. Dudley’s skull was shattered with a piece of asphalt and the men beat him with their fists on September 30. Dudley died two days later.

An altercation between Dudley and the suspects escalated to the beating that took place close to a popular neighborhood convenience store. There were several witnesses to the attack.

Police were able to identify the five suspects from eyewitness accounts.

Tomaris Lamont Parker, 18, Dorsey Donnell Lucas, 26, Joseph Anthony Frazier, 48, and Travis Devon Sanders, 25, have each been charged with first-degree murder. Police are also charging a 15-year-old.

Source: Journal Staff and Wire Report, Fire/Police Briefs, “Operation leads to 148 fugitive arrests,” Winston-Salem Journal, 10/4/03.

DECEMBER

Atlanta, Georgia

Fire Injures Three Men and Destroys their Shack

Shortly before Christmas, there was a series of fire bombings that targeted homeless people in the Atlanta area. Pat Johnson lived with his brother, Kenneth Rawls, and a friend, Ricky Williams, in a small shack along a deserted railroad track. All three men were burned in the attack. Johnson received third-degree burns on his arms. Rawls and Williams were trapped in the fire and as of January 15th were still listed as critical at a local hospital. Both men received third degree burns over their bodies.

Johnson reported that on the night of the fire, while he watched his brother and friend trapped inside, he could hear nearby residents of a loft complex gathered on their balconies shouting jeers and taunts.

An EMS unit happened to be in the area at the time of the fire and stopped to help. Fire trucks were called but then inexplicably cancelled. No units arrived on the scene to help. Police were only informed of the event when a homeless man told a beat cop about the fire.

Johnson and his friend, Aaron King, are canvassing the neighborhood and asking other homeless individuals for any information on the fires. They have turned over their findings to the police.

Another makeshift home was set on fire in early December; it was unoccupied at the time. Two weeks after the attack on Johnson's home, another shack was burned to the ground. A homeless couple lived there; the man was away at the time, and the woman was able to escape the fire without injury.

Source: Scott Henry, "Fires Target Homeless Huts," Creative Loafing, 1/15/04.

Buena Park, California

Homeless Man Attacked, Later Dies

Aubrey Gallego, 51, was arrested on December 30 after allegedly attacking Daniel Ganschow, a 40-year-old homeless man on December 26. Ganschow died a day later from injuries sustained during the attack.

Gallego is a resident of Buena Park.

As of December 30, the motive for the attack had not been determined, according to police.

Source: "Homeless man dies after beating in Buena Park," The Orange County Register, 12/28/03; Times Staff Reports, "Arrest in Beating Death of Homeless Man," Los Angeles Times, 12/30/03.

Portland, Maine

Violent Attacks Spur March

The past year in Portland has been particularly violent toward the homeless population. Groups of young males have attacked homeless men and women on several occasions. A brick hit one man while he slept. A woman had her campsite burned twice within two weeks. Two men and a woman had all of their belongings destroyed while they were camping. Police say that the majority of the attacks have been directed toward people staying in illegal campsites. One man had to have fifteen staples put into his head after he was beaten with bats while he slept in his tent.

The Police Department is attempting to work with the Preble Street Resource Center in order to encourage victims of these attacks to report them to the police. Students from a local high school helped organize a march to bring awareness to the issue of hate crimes against the homeless.

Source: Joshua Weinstein, "Violent Attacks Spur March; Several homeless people have been beaten in recent months," Portland Press Herald, 9/23/03; "Crimes against homeless deserve our attention," Portland Press Herald editorial; "Spirit of first Christmas marches on in Portland," Portland Press Herald editorial, 12/25/03; letter to the editor written by Steve Huston, Portland Press Herald, 9/11/03.

San Francisco, California

Homeless Man Was Shot Repeatedly With A Pellet Gun

John Kiley, a homeless man, was shot with a pellet gun over 20 times as he slept in a sleeping bag on December 27.

When Kiley awoke on Saturday morning at approximately 6 a.m., he said, he found himself being shot, the shots apparently coming from a nearby pick-up truck. The truck moved closer, whereupon its driver shot Kiley twice in the head, where the pellets lodged.

Kiley arose and began walking toward a coffee shop to evaluate his injuries, which were bleeding. The truck then returned and shot him again.

Kiley said, "I was upset and wanted to confront them." He added, "But they shot a few more times, said 'Get a job,' backed up out of the alley and drove off the wrong way on Gough Street."

The pellets in Kiley's head were later removed at St. Francis Hospital.

As of December 31, Kiley's attacker, whom Kiley said he didn't recognize, had yet to be determined. But police were reportedly searching for a Hispanic man driving a beat-up, white truck, said police spokesman Dewayne Tully.

Homeless advocates said the assault on Kiley was a hate crime, and Hank Wilson, Kiley's supervisor, at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, where Kiley had been working as a part-time janitor at the time of the attack, said, "I think that there are some people who villainize homeless people, who don't understand that not everyone has a family to fall back on."

"Some people are single and worked most of their lives and all of a sudden find themselves out on the street for one reason or another."

Wilson, who called Kiley a "hard worker," also said the attack was "outrageous." According to Wilson, Kiley had arrived at work with the pellets still in his head, but hesitant to report the attack to police.

"When I saw his head and the pellets were still in it," Wilson said, "I motivated him to file a police report because I felt it was important that this be reported."

After he was attacked, Kiley heard from additional homeless people who had also been recently assaulted with pellets, he said.

"I think a lot of it is going unreported because (a lot of homeless) don't have access to phones, and they don't want to get medical treatment because they don't have coverage."

A recent article in Street Sheet asked Kiley if he had anything to say to his attacker, and he said, "Acts of violence, especially of this nature, are not a way to deal with whatever frustration he might have, or justification for doing it. There are better ways to deal with people that are less fortunate and having to sleep in the street. A little compassion and understanding goes a long way, and maybe he should consider that in the future."

Source: J.K. Dineen, "Man shot repeatedly with pellet gun," The San Francisco Examiner, 12/31/03, Capt. Ordealus Phynche, "Hate Crime Victim Speaks," Street Sheet 2/1/2004.

MARKETING HOMELESS EXPLOITATION

Introduction:

For five years, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has tracked a frightening increase in crimes targeting homeless people and 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 available in the criminalization report at www.nationalhomeless.org/civilrights/crim2003/index.html.

There is a documented relationship between increased police actions and the increasing number of hate crimes/violent acts. "It seems that disturbed violent people take a cue from their cities' response 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 Donald Whitehead, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Las Vegas, San Francisco, New York City and Los Angeles, ranked the top four "meanest cities" in 2003 in regards to the criminalization of homelessness, have also seen hate crimes and acts of violence against homeless people.

The next step in the dehumanization of homeless people is the rise of hate speech in the United States directed at homeless people. Advocates are now tracking a disturbing trend that is being accepted in mainstream venues including television, major corporate retailers, newspapers and radio. Mainstream media is grossly exaggerating stereotypes or using homeless people as props in comedy routines.

"We are now seeing radio personalities, television producers and newspapers editors treating homeless people as props in disgusting and often obscene acts of depravity. This strips away the dignity and the humanity of a vulnerable population and makes it acceptable to attack homeless people," said Donald Whitehead.

Even more disconcerting are major corporate retailers including Tower Records, Borders, Best Buy, Blockbuster, Barnes and Noble and Trans World Entertainment have found it acceptable to sell these videos and DVDs in their stores and on the internet that show homeless people drinking urine or Windex for money or alcohol, fighting, or self mutilation. Fortunately, a few corporations (Amazon.com, Target, Virgin Mega stores, Blockbuster.com, and Barnes and Noble) have stopped selling the disturbing videos as per NCH's request.

“These are retailers that depend on their public image, but 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 one month, and not one cent of the royalties was paid to homeless people exploited in the film,” said Michael Stoops, Director of Community Organizing 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 Best Buy.

NCH will continue to track these disturbing societal trends in growing outrageous actions/speech and hate crimes/violence against homeless people. If you witness hate crimes/violence against homeless people or outrageous actions/speech directed at homeless people, please send the documentation to: Michael Stoops, Director of Community Organizing, at the National Coalition for the Homeless. Phone: (202) 737-6444 x19; Email: mstoops@nationalhomeless.org

CASE DESCRIPTIONS

BY MONTH AND CITY IN 2003

**HERE IS A SAMPLING OF OUTRAGEOUS ACTIONS/SPEECH
DOCUMENTED IN 2003:**

Atlanta, Georgia

Making Fun of Homeless People for Not Liking Food

Two disc jockeys from 99X's morning show took food from restaurants that they then gave to homeless men. The men were asked to rate the food- 1 dumpster, 2 dumpsters, all the way up to 10 dumpsters. When some of the men admitted that they didn't like something, the DJs made fun of them saying things like, "You're homeless, how can you not like this food?" The men were told that, since they ate food out of garbage cans, they didn't have the right to be choosy. The homeless men that participated in the show did not know they were being made fun of.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Shock-Jock Stages "Derelict Round-Up"

Cincinnati DJ Bill "Willy" Cunningham of 700 WLW conducted what he called a "Derelict Round-Up," a publicity stunt in which his radio show broadcasted from a bus that he used to take homeless persons from Downtown Cincinnati to a nearby suburb. The homeless persons were lured into the bus with promises of malt liquor and cheap wine.

The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless called Cunningham's program to protest the stunt, to which Cunningham responded by screaming, "go to hell" and hanging up the phone. Cunningham then continued to ridicule homeless people, calling them filthy and degenerates.

Source: "Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the United States" National Coalition for the Homeless, August 2003.

Cleveland, Ohio

Homeless Man Shocked with Stun Gun In Exchange for Free Pizza

During a morning talk show, two DJs from Cleveland's 92.3 Extreme Radio were reported to have asked a homeless man for permission to shock him with a stun gun in exchange for a free pizza. The homeless man allegedly complied.

The weekend before the program aired, a group of teenagers used a stun gun on a homeless man. The DJs were assumed to be poking fun at that crime.

No homeless man has come forward and identified himself as the victim of the crime. Quite possibly, the DJs could have fabricated the entire incident. Two months before, the same two DJs claimed that they had released a balloon to which they had tied a kitten. As it turned out, nothing of the sort happened. It was a publicity gag.

Source: Brian Davis, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Cleveland.

Dayton, Ohio

College Paper Columnist Advocates Hitting Homeless People with Cars

Sinclair Community College's student newspaper, *The Clarion*, published an editorial that proposes running over homeless people with cars as a way to combat panhandling.

"If one more homeless bum asks me for change in the Oregon District," wrote Jonathan Dillon, "I may have to start running them over when I see them on the street."

He continued, "All I'm saying is that next time you are driving and have the opportunity to run over some obnoxious bum who's been begging you for money as long as you can remember, why not swerve? Fun, fun, fun."

The Coalition on Housing & Homelessness in Ohio (COHHIO) responded with over 100 members sending letters and emails to the college president protesting this column. The student writer left the college soon after its publication. He then wrote an editorial trying to explain what he was trying to say and why, but he never did apologize for telling people that they should run over homeless people with a car.

Source: "'Go Away You Obnoxious Bums' Article Elicits Outrage From Activist Community," StreetVibes, Dec. 2003; Jonathan Dillon, "Go Away You Obnoxious Bums," The Clarion, Sinclair Community College; "COHHIO Action Alert: Action Alert – Newspaper Advocates Hatred Towards the Homeless."

Kingston, New York

Mayoral Candidate Labels Homeless as Pedophiles, Drunks, Alcoholics and Bums

During a radio debate, Republican mayoral candidate Karen Vetere claimed that the residents of a local homeless shelter were “pedophiles, drunks, alcoholics and bums.”

“Unfortunately, the homeless shelter mixes everybody together,” Vetere said. “It has just kids with pedophiles and drunks and alcoholics and bums that are on the street. This is a terrible environment for children to be in.”

Vetere later amended the statement to say that she was referring only to some of the adults staying at the shelter. She acknowledged that she had never visited the shelter. She could not provide any evidence that “pedophiles” had stayed at the shelter, though she doubts that the shelter conducts criminal background checks on all its clients.

The executive director of the shelter Vetere mentioned wrote a letter to all mayoral candidates that stated, “the program does not take individuals with a history of violence or sexual abuse.”

Source: “Challenger’s Degradation of the Homeless Galls Mayor” The Daily Freeman, September 21st, 2003.

Orlando, Florida

“Homeless Idol” Show Uses Christmas Song to Stereotype Homeless People

A new alternative rock station, 101.1 FM, in Orlando hosted a “Homeless Idol” show weekly on the Buckethead show. The station chose three contestants weekly and had them sing live on the radio. A picture of each homeless man/woman was posted online along with the audio of them singing. Listeners voted online to determine who advanced to the finals. At the time of this publication the contest was ongoing. The contest can be viewed at http://www.wjrr.com/showinfo_evenings_homelessidol.html. The Buckethead show also aired a segment titled the “12 Days of Christmas with the Homeless.” A homeless man or woman sang each verse of the song. The song can be heard at http://www.realrock1011.com/showinfo_afternoons.html. The lyrics to the song are:

On the first day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **One Freakin Penny**
On the second day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Two Cheese Doritos**
On the third day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Three Shots of Jaeger**
On the fourth day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Four Coupons for the Dollar Store**
On the fifth day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Five Cigarette Butts**
On the sixth day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Six Goobers in the Face**
On the seventh day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Seven Packets of Mustard**
On the eighth day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Eight Job Openings that I Didn’t Take**
On the ninth day Christmas a stranger gave to me **Nine Profanities of Advice**

On the tenth day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Ten Kicks to the Head**
On the eleventh day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Eleven Reasons Why I Should Move**
On the twelfth day of Christmas a stranger gave to me **Twelve Ways to Beg.**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“Homeless Idol” Show Exploits Homeless People

The radio station Q102 FM in Philadelphia hosted a “Homeless Idol” show on the Chio in the Morning Show. People experiencing homelessness would be asked to sing live on the radio for the chance to win five dollars, a “cheap bottle of red wine” and a radio station jacket. Listeners called the radio station to vote on whether the “contestant” should win the prizes. Pictures and audio of the contest can be viewed at http://www.q102.com/ver2/citms/citms_recaps1.html.

San Francisco, California

Hotel Council Sponsors Anti-homeless Billboards

The Hotel Council of San Francisco, facing a drop in business, launched a \$65,000 campaign in April 2003 to put up billboards and posters that discourage giving to panhandlers.

One poster showed a picture of tourists and San Francisco residents saying “Today we rode a cable car, visited Alcatraz, and supported a drug habit. Giving to panhandlers doesn’t help, it hurts.”

In a more pointed poster, a hand holds a cup that reads “Desperate for help,” with “help” crossed out and replaced by “crack.”

Homeless rights advocate Paul Boden took issue with the inflammatory messages that the posters carry.

"It's slick, real slick," Boden said from his Tenderloin office. "And the message is real clear. Hate the homeless -- they spread drugs, disease and close down businesses."

"But they don't say the disabled spread drugs or that the mentally ill spread disease. They don't use that as a point of attack," Boden said.

The Hotel Council Executive Director Bob Begley attributed slumping profits in the tourist industry in part to the presence of homeless people on the streets of San Francisco, many of whom tourists beg for money. He also gave credit to the combination of the effects of September 11th, a national economy in recession, the scare over SARS, and competition from the hotels and casinos of Las Vegas.

The ads can be found on www.wewantchange.com

Sources: "S.F. billboards slap handouts for feeding panhandlers' vices Hotel Council says giving to beggars fuels drug use, venereal disease" San Francisco Chronicle, April 23rd, 2003. "Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the United States" August 2003, The National Coalition for the Homeless.

Washington, DC

"Homeless Idol" Show Mocks Sleeping Homeless Man

The radio station 99.5 FM in Washington DC hosted a "Homeless Idol" as well. They selected people to sing live on the air. The grand prize was five dollars. Two of the "contestants" can be viewed at http://www.hot995.com/multimedia/_homeless.html. In addition to the "Homeless Idol" video the radio station taped a segment where DJs mocked a sleeping homeless man.

VIDEO EXPLOITATION OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

“Bum Videos”

The release of “Bum Fights” in 2001 has led to a proliferation of bum videos. Five different videos have been produced in the past four years: “Bum Fights,” “Bum Fights 2,” “Bum Hunts,” “Bum Show.com,” and “Bag Lady Beatings.” In these videos, homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for money, alcohol or food. The video producers also use parodies of famous TV shows to demoralize homeless people.

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.”

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 along with a number of other “Bum Videos” in the past few years. “Bum Fights III” is scheduled for release in the summer of 2004.

“Stop Selling Hate Speech”

Dehumanizing videos like these only add to the trend 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 people making these videos “cockroaches (who) only come out at night. None of us in government, sanction or support this type of exploitation.” Meanwhile, Sgt. Eric Fricker, Las Vegas supervisor of two Metro Police officers who work with homeless people, said he was trying to “educate the homeless and talking to advocates in order to stop future filmmakers.”

The National Coalition for the Homeless, the oldest and largest national homeless advocacy organization in the United States, aims to protect the rights of homeless people. NCH has sent letters, faxes and e-mails asking mainstream retailers to:

- 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.
- c. Pledge to never purchase these violent exploitative films that depict homeless people as props in a voyeuristic display of depravity.

The National Coalition for the Homeless' Board of Directors considers the sales 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.

“BUM VIDEO” SUMMARIES

“Bumfights” (2001) & “Bumfights 2” (2003)

- * A homeless man drinks urine he perceives is a beer.
- * A homeless man runs head first into a stack of crates for a nickel.
- * A homeless man with drug addiction problems sets his hair on fire.
- * A man, pretending to be Steve Irwin of “Crocodile Hunter” fame, calls himself the “Bum Hunter.” He sneaks up on homeless people (who are lying down with their eyes closed) to capture them. He uses duct tape to put their arms and legs together, and tape their mouths shut. Then he sometimes writes a number on their forehead with a permanent marker and uses measurement tape to size them.
- * A homeless man is tied to a tree with duct tape and scrubbed with mop and soapy water from a bucket.
- * A homeless man tears his tooth out with a pair of pliers.
- * A homeless man breaks another homeless man’s ankle.
- * A group of youth pretends to be the “Bum Patrol.” They use a real siren to harass homeless people walking along the side of the road. They search through their pockets, swear at them, throw some in a dumpster, de-pants one of them, use duct tape to tie two people hugging each other, and put handcuffs on one.
- * A homeless man eats a raw frog for a guitar.
- * Two homeless men pee on another homeless man’s head.

For more information, please go to www.bumfights.com

“Bum Hunts” (2002-2003)

- * A man, pretending to be Steve Irwin of “Crocodile Hunter” fame, calls himself the “Bum Hunter.” He chases and tackles some homeless people, while sneaking up on others who are lying down. He sits on top of them, ties their hands and feet together with duct tape and makes remarks as if they were animals (“this one is a fine species,” “a small guy like this is very susceptible to predators,” “look he has got no teeth; smoking crack deteriorates your gums,” and “I want to look in his cart to see what he has stolen”). He also makes degrading comments such as, “if I came in here with a brand new bandage (to fix a homeless man’s arm), he would immediately try to rip it off because he doesn’t know the smell, he thinks it’s new, and we all know that bums don’t wear new clothes, they only wear old clothes.”
- * The “Bum Hunter” has a storage room of files on the “homeless bastards to check their revolution [evolution], their toothlessness and their crack addiction.”
- * Homeless men participate in a “Bum Run for Rum” created by the producers of the show. They have to complete a tooth brushing section, they have to put panty hose over their heads for a part of the race (which “is really natural to them because when they

decide to rob someone they do not want anyone to recognize them”) and they have to perform 4th grade math. Throughout the race, two commentators say degrading and condescending remarks about the homeless contestants. The show ends with one commentator asking the other if he is “going to stick around for the awards ceremony.” The commentator responds, “I doubt it, I want to get out of here before these filthy fucks try to bum a smoke off of me.”

- * Two homeless people go on a “Bum Date” (a version of “Blind Date” aired on television). The show finds “two filthy bums and takes them out for a night on the town.” Subtitles and comments appear on the screen throughout the date to mock the lifestyle and interaction of homeless people.

- * The “Bum Hunter” teaches the viewer how to trap a homeless person. He advises them to leave a garbage bag consisting of a half-eaten sandwich, half-smoked cigarettes, a 40-ounce beer of the cheapest brand, and pocket change.

- * A homeless man rides in a shopping cart down a ramp and crashes into the wall.

For more information please go to www.bumhunts.com

“Bum Show.com” (2003)

- * A homeless man is asked to make a “Derelict Decision.” He is offered to choose between a new shirt, an umbrella and a beer. The African-American man, known as “Black Aaron,” chooses the beer (reinforcing homeless stereotypes).

- * A homeless man is offered a quarter to drink Windex. He takes a gulp of the bottle for 1 dollar. He is shown vomiting shortly afterwards.

- * A homeless man is given the chance to make wishes on the “Vagabond Request Line,” which is sponsored by the Hobo Dream Come True Foundation. He asks for two barely clothed women to crawl into a dumpster, a woman to show her boobs and a shirtless woman to pretend she is performing oral sex on him through the use of a beer bottle (these actors are depicting homeless men as dirty and perverted).

- * A homeless man drinks sterno heating fuel.

- * A homeless man is offered 50 cents to drink Listerine. The cameraman is laughing and sprays Windex at the homeless man’s mouth when he finishes the bottle of mouthwash. He is given 1 dollar.

- * Homeless men and women are constantly shown drinking alcohol from a brown bag to reinforce the stereotypes about homeless people.

For more information go to www.bumshow.com

“Bag Lady Beatings” (2004)

- * Two men claim to be the “Homeless Pound Transport.” They use a rope, a crossbow, a snare, homeless bait, a stun gun and a straight jacket to capture homeless people. Once they capture a homeless person, they put him or her in a locked cage on the back of a pickup truck. Then they drive their victim through the city to the “Homeless Pound” (public mockery).

- * A man shoots potatoes and apples at homeless people with a “Bum Gun.” He knocks down a homeless man on crutches; he shoots one in the head; he shoots another in the back, etc.
- * Two homeless people are filmed having sex against a dumpster.
- * A man shoots paint balls at two naked homeless women. The “Naked Homeless Targets” are tied up with a dartboard over their genitals. Afterwards, the camera shows a close-up of the welts all over the women’s bodies.
- * A homeless woman sets her friend on fire.
- * Homeless women are asked to remove their clothes throughout the video.

For more information go to www.bagladybeatings.com

Scenes from the “Bum Videos”



Images of fights from Bum Fights 2 (above).



Cover (right) and advertisement (left) for the Bum Hunter videos, which imitate the Steve Irwin Crocodile Hunter shows.



More images from Bum Fights 2, one of a man taped to a tree having a forcible “bath” (left) and one of a tooth being pulled out with pliers (right).



A CALL TO INVESTIGATE THE VIOLENT ACTS AND CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Over the past five years 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. Over the last five years alone (1999 through 2003) there have been 281 acts of violence, resulting in 131 deaths of people experiencing homelessness, and 150 victims of non-lethal violence. These incidents took place in 119 different cities from 38 states and Puerto Rico. The perpetrators were housed individuals.

NCH calls on Congress for a General Accounting 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
1012 14th St. NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3471
Fax: 202.737.6445

Or sign on online at www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html
phone: (202) 737-6444 ext. 19; email: mstoops@nationalhomeless.org

HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

JUNE 2004

Please personalize this letter to your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators. We encourage you to handwrite this letter and include any personal stories that are relevant. Please send a copy of any letter and response you receive to Michael Stoops at the National Coalition for the Homeless at mstoops@nationalhomeless.org or by fax (202) 737-6445.

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. General Accounting 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 nearly 500 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 investigation 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 five years (1999 – 2003). These reports document hate crimes and violent acts committed against people experiencing homelessness. These reports can be found at www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes. Between 1999 and 2003 there were 281 acts of violence against homeless people resulting in 131 deaths and 150 victims of non-lethal violence. These incidents took place in 119 cities from 38 states and Puerto Rico. The youngest victim was four months old, the oldest was seventy-four 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,

SAMPLE GAO RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT:

Hate Crimes/Violence Resolution to Be Presented To/Passed By Your City Council/County Commission/State Legislature:

Whereas in the five years from 1999 to 2003, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has documented 281 separate instances of hate crimes and/or violent acts committed against homeless people by non-homeless individuals nationally;

Whereas of the hate crimes and/or violent acts that occurred in the 119 cities in 38 states and Puerto Rico compiled by NCH, 150 of the reported assaults were non-lethal, while 131 have resulted in the deaths of homeless people;

Whereas among the perpetrators of these crimes, the overwhelming majority were teens and/or young adults;

Whereas the reported hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people in 2003 nationally resulted in 9 deaths and 61 injuries from non-lethal violence;

Whereas poor and homeless people are not a protected class under federal, state or local civil rights statutes, and none of the current hate crime laws in the United States include or acknowledge hate crimes and/or acts of violence based on economic or housing status;

Whereas no American city currently provides sufficient affordable housing stock, or enough emergency shelter beds, for all of its homeless residents;

Whereas homeless people are then forced to live on the streets or camp outdoors, leaving them extremely vulnerable to attacks and retaliation;

Whereas many such hate crimes and/or acts of violence go unpublicized and unreported, making it difficult to assess the true situation;

Whereas homeless people often will not report crimes committed against them for such reasons as mental illness, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, past experiences, or distrust of the police;

Whereas the National Coalition for the Homeless acts as the nationwide repository of hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people, but there is no systematic method of collection and documenting such reports;

Whereas some cases from the five annual reports were also omitted because the victims were found beaten or murdered, but no suspects could be identified;

Whereas NCH's annual hate crimes/violence report also does not take into account the large number of sexual assaults on homeless women;

Whereas news items and reports from local homeless advocacy agencies compiled by NCH account for only an estimated 25-50% of the total number of such violent acts;

Whereas in accordance with NCH's recommendations to combat this national epidemic, _____ already provides sensitivity/awareness trainings on issues pertaining to homelessness to police recruits/officers;

Therefore let it be resolved that the City or County of _____ officially endorses the National Coalition for the Homeless' recommendations to combat hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness, joining nearly 500 local and national 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.

The City and County of _____ join NCH in calling for a public statement from the U.S. Department of Justice acknowledging that hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people is a serious national trend.

The City and County of _____ also requests the U.S. Department of Justice to maintain a national database to track these crimes, and, that the City and County of _____ also begin a database to track such crimes.

Additionally, the City and County of _____ joins NCH's request of Congress to direct the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) to investigate the nature and scope of hate crimes and/or violent acts that occur against people experiencing homelessness nationally, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the entire _____ Congressional Delegation asking that they call upon the GAO for an investigation into this matter.

HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

JUNE 2004

GAO RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FILE NO. 031042

RESOLUTION NO. _____

[Resolution against hate crimes and/or acts of violence against people experiencing homelessness]

Resolution supporting the National Coalition for the Homeless' recommendations to combat hate crimes and/or acts of violence against people experiencing homelessness.

WHEREAS, From 1999 to 2002, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has documented 212 separate instances of hate crimes and/or violent acts committed against by non-homeless individuals nationally; and,

WHEREAS, *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness from 1999-2002* is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ⁰³¹⁰⁴², which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and,

WHEREAS, Hate crimes and/or violent acts have occurred in 98 cities of 34 states complied by NCH, 89 of the reported assaults were non-lethal, while 123 resulted in the deaths of homeless individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Among the victims of these crimes, the oldest was a 74 year-old man, the youngest a four month-old infant; and,

WHEREAS, Among the perpetrators of these crimes, the overwhelming majority were teens and/or young adults; and,

WHEREAS, NCH cites California as the most dangerous state in which to be homeless, reporting 32 separate violent acts in 18 different cities including San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, Poor and homeless individuals are not a protected class under federal, state, or local civil rights statutes and none of the current hate crime laws in the United States

SUPERVISOR CHRIS DALY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Page 1
6/2/2003

Resolution/Supervisor's name in bold/Resolution for homeless hate crimes.doc

1 include or acknowledge hate crimes and/or acts of violence based on economic or housing
2 status.

3 WHEREAS, In 1994 the California Assembly passed Bill No. 2521, which added
4 immigration and homelessness to hate crimes statutes that presently included race, color,
5 religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender and sexual orientation. However the bill
6 was vetoed by the Governor; and,

7 WHEREAS, There is a shortage of shelters, beds, and programs for the homeless
8 forcing many to live on the streets, which leaves them vulnerable to harassment and attacks;
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, Homeless individuals often do not report crimes committed against them
11 for such reasons as mental illness, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, past experiences, or
12 distrust of the police; and,

13 WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless acts as the nationwide repository
14 of hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people, but there is no systematic
15 method of collecting and documenting such reports; and,

16 WHEREAS, NCH's hate crimes/violence report does not take into account the large
17 number of sexual assaults on homeless women; and,

18 WHEREAS, In accordance with NCH's recommendations to combat this national
19 epidemic, San Francisco already provides sensitivity/awareness training on issues pertaining
20 to homelessness to police officers; now therefore, be it,

21 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco joins National Coalition of
22 Homelessness in calling for a public statement from the U.S. Department of Justice
23 acknowledging that hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless individuals is a
24 serious national trend; and, be it

25

SUPERVISOR CHRIS DALY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Page 2
6/2/2003

C:\admin\daly\trans\mark.n\take\resolution for homeless hate crime.doc

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco endorses the
2 National Coalition for the Homeless' recommendations to combat hate crimes and/or acts of
3 violence against individuals experiencing homelessness, joining over 400 national and local
4 organizations, including the National League of Cities, the National Organization of Women
5 (NOW), and Volunteers of America; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco join the National
7 Coalition on the Homeless in calling for a public statement from the U.S. Department of
8 Justice acknowledging that hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people is a
9 serious national trend; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco joins the National
11 Coalition for the Homeless in their request of Congress to direct the U.S. General Accounting
12 Office (GAO) to investigate the nature and scope of hate crimes and/or violent acts that occur
13 against people experiencing homelessness nationally, and that a copy of this resolution be
14 send to the entire California Congressional Delegation asking that they call upon the GAO for
15 an investigation into this matter.

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SUPERVISOR CHRIS DALY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Page 3
6/2/2003

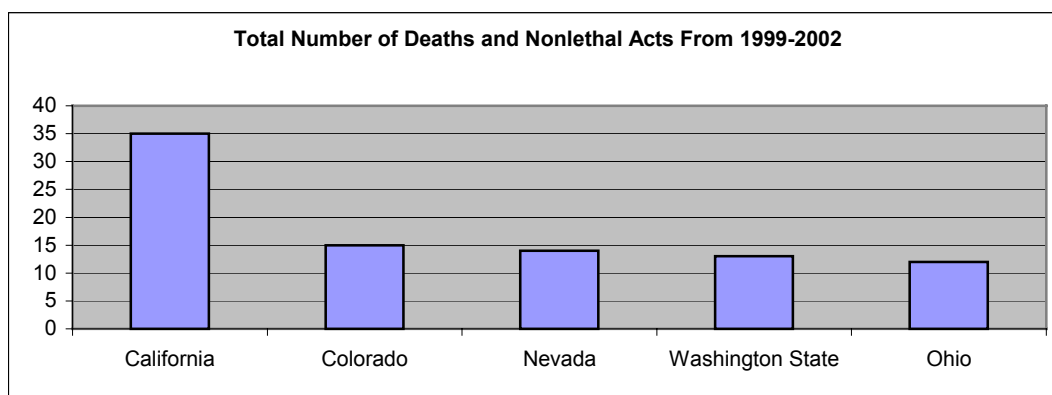
Queen's University is proud to have a resolution for homeless hate crime day

MODEL LEGISLATION PROPOSED/ENACTED IN CALIFORNIA

In 1994, the California Senate and House passed a bill to include homeless people and immigration status among the protected groups (AB 2521). It was vetoed by then-Governor Pete Wilson. Since that time, two research reports have demonstrated to the California Legislature that the state has had serious and unaddressed problems of crime against homeless persons, including those with disabilities (Senator Kuehl, 2002).

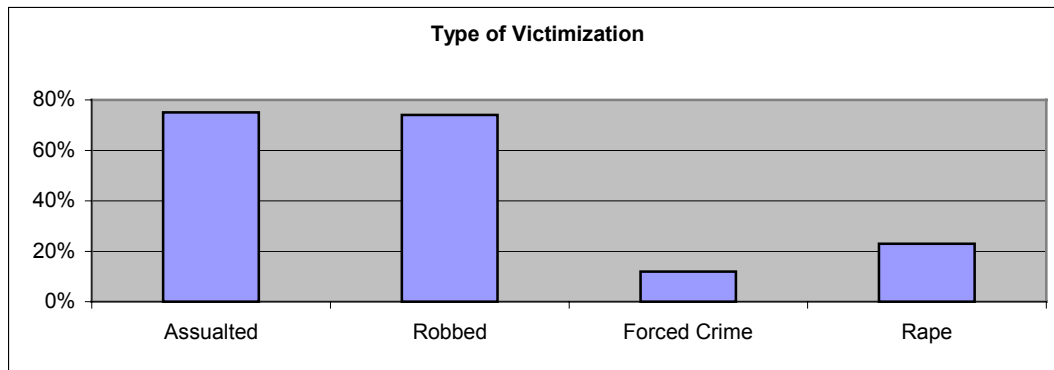
Research Report by the National Coalition for the Homeless

The “Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness from 1999-2002” collected data from news reports and homeless shelters to report the number of homeless victimizations that have occurred in the past four years. California was ranked the most dangerous state to live in for people experiencing homelessness, and Los Angeles and San Diego were both ranked the eighth most dangerous cities to live in for people experiencing homelessness.



Research Report by the California Department of Justice

The “Special Report/Study to the Legislature on Senate Resolution 18” consisted of paper and pencil interviews with 162 voluntary participants (105 homeless persons, 25 advocates of homeless persons, 17 law enforcement officers, and 15 prosecutors) from seven Northern California cities. The results of the study indicated that 66 % percent of the homeless participants (69/105), were victimized in 2001. Of those who were victimized, 72 % reported more than one victimization, and 31 % reported more than five victimizations. The majority of homeless victims were either assaulted or robbed: 75 % indicated assault, 74 % indicated robbery, 12% indicated forced crime participation, and 23 % indicted rape.



The results also indicated: offenses against homeless victims were two or more times more likely to occur outdoors instead of indoors; more assaults, robberies, and rapes occurred at night for each offense type than occurred during the day; and more victimization occurred when the victim was alone than when the victim was with someone else. These results suggest a vulnerability to victimization of homeless persons since many of them spend their time outdoors and spend their nights alone.

A final result was that homeless persons and advocates believe victimization of homeless persons occurs with regularity, while law enforcement officers believe victimization of homeless persons does not occur with great frequency. This is understandable since seventy-five percent of the total number of homeless participants from the study indicated they did not report the crime.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

These reports have encouraged the California legislature to consider legislation that will protect and advocate for homeless persons, including homeless persons with disabilities.

Senate Resolution 18

In August 2001, Senator Burton introduced Senate Resolution 18. The legislation requests the Attorney General to assess the extent of the problem of crimes against homeless persons to develop a plan to prevent and improve these crimes and to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes. The Senate requests that, in developing the assessment and plan, the Attorney General consult homeless persons and their advocates, law enforcement agencies experienced with anti-homeless crime, and the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

The Attorney General would then be asked to make an initial report to the Legislature by January 7, 2002, and a final report by December 1, 2002. The Senate requests that this report include recommendations for any legislation necessary to carry out the plan, and a recommendation on whether to expand the definition of hate crime to include crimes committed in whole or in part because the victim is homeless or is perceived to be homeless (Senator Burton, Oct. 2001). The bill has not received support or opposition from the legislature.

San Francisco Resolution 83

In June 2003, the Board of Supervisors of the city and county of San Francisco passed a resolution supporting the National Coalition for the Homeless' recommendations to combat hate crimes and/or acts of violence against people experiencing homelessness (see pages 61-63). The resolution requests the Department of Justice and the U.S. General Accounting Office to investigate and acknowledge hate crimes and violence that occur against the homeless persons. The resolution has been sent to the entire California Congressional Delegation.

Senate Bill 1234

In February 2004, State Senator Kuehl introduced Senate Bill 1234. The bill will require 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 persons, and how to deal effectively and humanely with homeless persons, including those with disabilities. The telecourse shall include information on multi-mission criminal extremism, which means the nexus of certain hate crimes, anti-government extremist crimes to the Department of Justice to report when a victim appears to be homeless or self-identifies as homeless.

DENNIS J. KUCINICH
10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

1730 LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 228-8850
(216) 228-8455 FAX

5953 W. 54TH
PARMA, OHIO 44129
(440) 845-2707



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 11, 2003

Committees:
Government Reform
Education and Workforce

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
Department Of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

As you may have heard, police picked up four teenagers, one adult and three juveniles, on Saturday August 9, after attacking at least 6 homeless persons with a stun gun in Downtown Cleveland. The victims were sleeping on park benches while the attackers videotaped the assaults.

As cruel and outrageous as these attacks are, we know that these are not isolated incidents. The assaults were allegedly perpetrated to emulate attacks from recent "reality" movies. According to the yesterday's Cleveland Plain Dealer, these attacks are "part of a disturbing wave of assaults on the homeless." The article cites paintball and pellet gun attacks on homeless persons in California, New Jersey, and Texas. The article also cites statistics from the National Coalition for the Homeless which reports 212 attacks on homeless persons by non-homeless assailants, including 122 murders, between 1999 and 2002.

As a start to solving this problem, the problem itself must be acknowledged and identified. Therefore, I ask that the Justice Department investigate the nature and scope of violent acts and hate crimes against homeless persons.

Homeless persons are among the most vulnerable citizens in our society. They cannot seek refuge in their own homes. Law enforcement, which is charged with enforcing laws protecting all people from violent crime, must make the extra effort to ensure that our most vulnerable populations receive adequate protection from criminal attacks such as those which happened in my hometown over the weekend. Please initiate an investigation into these attacks on homeless persons and take all necessary action to ensure that the laws are enforced to protect the homeless.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

ENCLOSURE

June 16, 2004

Help Fight Violence Against the Homeless

Deadline: June 24, at 5:00 p.m.

Dear Colleague:

The June 2001 killing of Hector Robles in Patterson, 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 five years, the National Coalition for the Homeless has tracked a disturbing increase in crimes targeting homeless people. Since 1999, more than 130 people have died in hate attacks, with hundreds more injured in other violent assaults.

Please join me in requesting an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) into the nature and scope of violent acts and hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness. This investigation would assist Congress and the public in obtaining much-needed information to help federal, state, and local officials identify actions that could prevent and reduce such crimes.

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. Thrill seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of the violence. This trend has been exacerbated by the proliferation of "Bum Videos," in which homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for money, alcohol, or food.

A study by the GAO would aid in protecting one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. This request has been endorsed by nearly 500 local, national and foreign 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.

Please contact Keenan Keller of my Judiciary Committee staff at 5-6906 to join me in taking the first step to ending hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,
John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member

**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 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 Resource Ctr. On Homelessness & Mental Illness
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

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 No. 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 |

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| CO | <p>Colorado Coalition for the Homeless COMITIS Crisis Center, Inc. Denver Voice Mercy Housing Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy SPIRIT-Human Services, Inc.</p> |
| CT | <p>AIDS Project New Haven Columbus House Inc. Community Renewal Team CT AIDS Residence Coalition CT Coalition to End Homelessness</p> |
| DC | <p>Action for Peace through Prayer & Aid Change, Inc. Community Council f/t Homeless/Friendship Place Dinner Program for Homeless Women Downtown Cluster of Congregations National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium House of Imogene Shelters So Others Might Eat (SOME) Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless</p> |
| FL | <p>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. John 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</p> |
| 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. |

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| 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 Bd, Boston Health Care f/t Homeless Holy Cross SCOHAN 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 |

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| | 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 |

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| | Minot Area Homeless Coalition ND Department of Commerce YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead |
| NH | American Friends Service Committtee--New Hampshire Homeless Center for Strafford County New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness Under The Bridge |
| NJ | Apostle House East 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 |

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| | 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 Northside Common Ministries Operation Safety Net Pennsylvania Lesbian & Gay Task Force Project HOME United Neighborhood Centers YWCA of Titusville, PA |
| PR | Coalicion de Apoyo Continuo a Personas sin Hogar Hogar Padre Venaro, Inc. Iniciativa Comunitaria de Investigacion, Inc. La Fondita de Jesus |
| RI | Advent House 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 |

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| | 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 Pro 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 |

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| 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:

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| Canada | L'Itineraire |
| Canada | Operation Go Home/Winnipeg Chapter |
| Canada | Street Sheet Canada |
| Norway | World Home |
| Norway | International Tenants Union |