

**ORIGINAL**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

----- X

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HATE CRIMES TASK FORCE

----- X

Suffolk County Legislature Building  
725 Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, New York

May 13, 2010  
5:30 p.m.

P R E S E N T:

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

- LEGISLATURE DUWAYNE GREGORY, Chairman
- LAURA A. AHEARN
- REV. JOANN BARRETT
- DR. DAVID SCOTT KILMNICK
- CHIEF INSPECTOR TY MOJICA
- RENEE ORTIZ
- REV. RODERICK PEARSON
- DET. SERGEANT ROBERT REEKS

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to get started.  
3 I apologize again for being a little tardy. Thank you  
4 for being here early and coming today to present to us.  
5 We still have some members that we are waiting on, but  
6 we want to respect your time and have you come forward  
7 and make a presentation.

8 Can you state your name and organization and  
9 where you were from for the stenographer and for us?

10 MS. TRYLING: First of all, thank you for  
11 having us come and speak today about gay, lesbian,  
12 bisexual and transgender hate crimes. My name is Nick  
13 Tryling. I am the director of the youth services for  
14 Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth, otherwise known as  
15 LIGALY.

16 MR. NEMENZ: My name is Wes Nemenz. I'm the  
17 youth coordinator coordinator for LIGALY. Just to give  
18 you a little bit of background. LIGALY is a non-profit  
19 organization. We serve young people ages thirteen to  
20 twenty-one and provide a safe space for them that is  
21 free from harassment and bullying that allows them to  
22 develop positive identities and images.

23 MS. TRYLLING: It's a 501(c)(3) agency that  
24 is a part of the Long Island LGBT network services. The  
25 sister organizations in the network are the Long Island

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

LGBT center, which serves adults and families, and also does a lot of outreach for specific minority populations that intersect the LGBT community. Then we have SAGE Long Island, which is advocacy for LGBT elders on Long Island which focuses its services on people age fifty plus to really draw out or to destroy the isolation that a lot of older gay and lesbian bisexual and transgender people feel.

The Anti-violence Project, specifically on Long Island, is a collaborative program between the Long Island LGBT community center and LIGALY. The Anti-Violence Project on Long Island serves to combat violence that has been committed against gays, lesbian bisexual, transgender and HIV positive people of all ages. We focus on survivors of hate motivated violence, domestic violence and sexual assault, and we help them regain a sense of control and identify their options and assert their rights.

To kind to get us started today, we would like to give you some contacts, and since there are no actual studies released specifically for Long Island for Suffolk County, we are going to refer to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects and their most recent study, which was 2008, and all the anti-hate

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2 crimes in 2008. The study is just called Anti-LGBT  
3 Violence in 2008 and it's online.

4           The first thing I guess you need to know is in  
5 this year time period, there were two thousand four  
6 hundred twenty-four total victim reports for anti-GLTB  
7 hate crimes. That is a twenty-six percent increase over  
8 two years, which is alone is a significant increase.  
9 However, it becomes even more significant when you  
10 realize that hate crimes nationally in general are  
11 declining, but for this specific target group they're  
12 increasing.

13           Some other statistics from the report that I  
14 personally found alarming, the first one that I think we  
15 need to talk about is all the injuries that were  
16 reported for these anti-LGBT hate crimes, half or nearly  
17 half, forty-six percent of all the injuries were  
18 considered serious, meaning that the victim needed  
19 immediate medical attention. In 2008 alone, there were  
20 twenty-nine murders committed against GLTB people. That  
21 number is the highest number of bias crimes or bias  
22 murders in one year since 1999.

23           And the numbers, reporting numbers are on the  
24 rise for youth as well, specifically between the ages of  
25 fifteen and eighteen, prime adolescent years. There was

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           an increase of youth reporting by a hundred eighteen  
3           percent, which just means that there is a lot more hate  
4           crimes specifically for that age group.

5           Then the last snapshot I wanted to give you  
6           was that of another group that is on the rise. The  
7           trend in increase for hate crime violence is transgender  
8           people. The anti-transgender bias crimes in 2008  
9           comprised twelve percent of the total of the anti-GLTB  
10          related hate crimes. These are, you know, each, I  
11          think, important and sometimes shocking in their own  
12          right. However, to get to the entire picture we have to  
13          really consider that all of these statistics from this  
14          report can only tell us half the story, because this  
15          report is only talking about those crimes which indeed  
16          were reported.

17          And a lot of the issue with hate crimes is  
18          that many of the anti-GLTB hate crimes go unreported and  
19          there are lots of reasons for that. The first reason,  
20          or even maybe the most prominent reason why so many  
21          victims are not reporting, is that they are afraid to  
22          work with law enforcement themselves. Indeed,  
23          forty-nine percent of all the people who talked to the  
24          NCADP in 2008 said under no circumstances would they  
25          further report their crime, their incident to law

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           enforcement. And that is directly related to some more  
3           data. Four percent of victims that year said that they  
4           had tried, and I mean a lot of them, more than that had  
5           tried. Of the ones who tried reporting it to law  
6           enforcement, four percent said they were denied the  
7           status of hate crime, that the law enforcement refused  
8           that designation, so that kind of compounds the  
9           problem.

10           MR. NEMENZ: Also, law enforcement accounted  
11           for actually eight percent of the total offenders of  
12           anti-GLTB hate crimes. That makes them the fourth  
13           largest offending category of all hate crimes  
14           committed.

15           THE CHAIRMAN: Say that again.

16           MR. NEMENZ: Law enforcement officials  
17           accounted for eight percent of total offenders of GLBT  
18           hate crimes. Out of all the hate crimes committed,  
19           people in law enforcement officials accounted for eight  
20           percent of them.

21           MS. TRYLING: They were the perpetrators.

22           THE CHAIRMAN: I understand. I find that  
23           astonishing. So you're saying -- go ahead. I'll ask  
24           the question later.

25           MS. AHEARN: This is, again, national

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 numbers?

3 MS. TRYLING: Absolutely.

4 MR. NEMENZ: Additionally, reports of  
5 physical abuse at the hands of law enforcement have  
6 increased a hundred fifty percent from 2007 to 2008. In  
7 2007, there were ten incidents reported. In 2008, there  
8 were twenty-five incidents reported of physical abuse at  
9 the hands of law enforcement officials, which is a  
10 significant increase.

11 MS. TRYLING: Absolutely. That isn't the  
12 only reason why people aren't reporting, of course.  
13 Another reason why people are afraid to report these is  
14 that they are just simply afraid of being doubly  
15 victimized. They have already been a victim once. They  
16 don't want to up their visiblity and become a target for  
17 another offense, and they certainly don't want to be  
18 outed in their workplace and in their communities.

19 To kind of further along with that idea, a lot  
20 of people, even here on Long Island, they're not aware  
21 that the anti-violence project here can't act as their  
22 liaison to help them work with law enforcement and help  
23 them keep their privacy and help them create these  
24 reports.

25 MR. NEMENZ: So that clearly is, as we said,

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1                   Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           is just a national kind of snapshot climate that we are  
3           dealing with. They are here. Hate crimes, of course,  
4           are being committed in Suffolk County as well. Just a  
5           few of them that we have as examples in the past year;  
6           June 30th last year, you may remember in Mastic Beach,  
7           three individuals attacked a lesbian identified  
8           individual in her own front yard. According to  
9           Detective Sergeant Reeks, the offenders called the  
10          victim queer, and one of the offenders was encouraging  
11          the other offenders to, quote, rip the F'ing face off  
12          that F'ing queer. The victim was sent to the hospital  
13          for medical attention.

14                   Only one day later, on July 1st in Central  
15          Islip, a man was charged with two counts of third degree  
16          assault as a hate crime, and three counts of second  
17          degree aggravated harassment. Three individuals --  
18          three victims. One of the victims reported being chased  
19          and being yelled, having anti-gay slurs yelled at him  
20          while he was being chased. Another was physically  
21          attacked and sent to the hospital for medical  
22          treatment. And another had the most serious injuries,  
23          and one of those included a laceration to his head that  
24          required nine stitches to close.

25                   March 2nd this year in Mastic Beach, a student

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           at William Floyd High was targeted and assaulted by two  
3           non-students who entered the school somehow, managed to  
4           get past Security and chased the victim and beat him in  
5           the halls of the school. The next day the  
6           superintendent stated there was no need for GLBT  
7           sensitivity training to News 12.

8           About two weeks ago -- LIGALY has a help line,  
9           and we received a help line call from a very concerned  
10          mother of a fifteen year old youth at Newfield High  
11          School in Selden was attacked and targeted, was beaten  
12          and held down by five other students from Newfield High.  
13          He is no longer a student there because he is too scared  
14          to go back. He refuses to press charges against the  
15          attackers.

16          We were talking earlier about the fear of  
17          double victimization. That kind of permeates. The  
18          mother did state to us that the law enforcement  
19          officials are encouraging him and doing everything they  
20          can to try to get him to press the charges and take this  
21          very seriously, which is a great example of law  
22          enforcement taking positive action against hate crimes,  
23          and this really helps out because it sends a message to  
24          the larger community that law enforcement officials take  
25          these kinds of crimes seriously, which is probably one

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2   of the biggest things that we can do. If you look in  
3   your folders, we have a sheet of recommendations that we  
4   can do to create a better situation.

5           MS. TRYLING: Absolutely. We recognize that  
6   there are, through the County Executive's Office, there  
7   are some advisory boards that foster communication, and  
8   I guess about challenges and need of diverse groups here  
9   in Suffolk County that are affected by hate crimes.  
10   Therefore, one of our first recommendations, we think  
11   now is definitely the time to establish a GLTB advisory  
12   board for Suffolk County through the County Executive's  
13   Office to further our communications between all our  
14   bodies and also to have equal representation.

15           MR. NEMENZ: We also need to raise cultural  
16   awareness through training in schools and in Suffolk  
17   county. LIGALY gives the training on a regular basis  
18   all the time in Suffolk County schools. In the sheet  
19   you see "education services;" you will see how many  
20   schools we are in. We are in thirty-seven schools of  
21   approximately fifty-five K through twelve schools in  
22   Suffolk County giving the workshops on a regular basis.  
23   I note Newfield High School and William Floyd High  
24   School are not included. We very much would like to.

25           MS. TRYLING: Absolutely. Our third

Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

1  
2 recommendation is to build the cultural competency of  
3 law enforcement by ensuring there is regularly scheduled  
4 GLTB sensitivity training, not only only for new  
5 personnel, but also experienced personnel, because hate  
6 crimes and addressing hate crimes is not a one shot  
7 deal. We need it to not have one workshop, but we need  
8 to continue to talk about those issues.

9 MR. NEMENZ: Our last recommendation, very  
10 little is allocated toward the GLBT community in the  
11 budget. This goes toward the trend of not being a  
12 priority, but being an after thought. We are asking to  
13 be a priority and please allocate recourses to  
14 organizations that are culturally proficient in serving  
15 the GLBT community. This hopefully will ensure that  
16 safe places like LIGALY exist for the GLBT members to  
17 report crimes like this and access the services that are  
18 so needed.

19 MS. TRYLING: Those are our recommendations.  
20 We would gladly take our questions that you have at this  
21 time.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your  
23 presentation. We found your presentation very  
24 informative. I have some questions. Let's go back to  
25 the statistic where you said eight percent nationally of

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1                   Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2                   this national study reported incidents of hate crimes  
3                   against the LGBT community from law enforcement. That  
4                   stems from someone who was a victim; they went to report  
5                   it and they were victimized again, or they were the  
6                   initial offender? Do you have a little more detail on  
7                   that, how that kind of plays out?

8                   MR. NEMENZ: Can you ask it one more time,  
9                   I'm sorry.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN: In the case where the law  
11                  enforcement has been the offender, does that stem from  
12                  when they report the crime or the initial offender?

13                  MS. TRYLING: We have the report here. We  
14                  are just looking for the numbers. As I remember it,  
15                  it's not when they went to report their crime, but it  
16                  was the crime itself.

17                  THE CHAIRMAN: They were victimized and later  
18                  on they found out it was a law enforcement official, not  
19                  someone with with gun and a badge?

20                  MS. TRYLING: Right.

21                  THE CHAIRMAN: I know you're in a lot of  
22                  schools. I saw the sheet where you are in a lot of  
23                  different schools. Is there a specific age group that  
24                  is targeted more so, if I could use that word. Are the  
25                  victims younger, older, middle age?

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 MS. TRYLING: When we are talking about hate  
3 crimes, there are different levels of not feeling safe,  
4 I guess. But I can assure you that children who have  
5 GLTB people in their families or might be GLTB  
6 themselves are feeling discriminatory language and hate  
7 around them from elementary school.

8 When we are in the school, when we tell you  
9 how many schools we are in, we talk about K through  
10 twelve districts. When we tell -- most of the schools  
11 we talk about these things in are middle schools and  
12 high schools. We offer elementary schools workshops,  
13 but people don't take us up on that that often. If we  
14 could chose, we would have specific workshops for all  
15 ages, but we are mostly in the older grades.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: As in high school?

17 MS. TRYLING: High school and college and  
18 middle school.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that the larger percentage  
20 of people being victimized?

21 MS. TRYLING: I would say so as to actual  
22 violence, as in medical injuries. But hate speech, hate  
23 language is everywhere.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there more common areas  
25 where victims are the attacked or victimized? I mean,

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 you're, if I can imagine someone saying well, let's go  
3 somewhere, as in the Lucerno case, they went out looking  
4 for Latinos. They kind of knew where to go. If there  
5 are certain areas where the GLTB community hang out, the  
6 likelihood where you might find a victim.

7 I guess waht I'm trying to say, from what you  
8 know, are the statistics -- are they more a crime of  
9 opportunity or are they planned or they know the  
10 victim?

11 MR. NEMENZ: It's interesting, when we do the  
12 workshop that we do in high school, we start off with a  
13 stereotyping kind of brainstorm activity. We speak to  
14 if I saw a gay or lesbian person walking down the  
15 street, what would they look like. That is how  
16 anti-GLTB hate crimes happen generally. It's not the  
17 color of our skin that gives it away, it's the  
18 stereotypes that perpetuate that.

19 Someone who may not identify as gay, lesbian,  
20 bisexual or transgender could be a victim of an  
21 anti-GLBT hate crime because they fit certain  
22 stereotypes of that.

23 Going off that, there are increased risks in  
24 GLBT frequented the areas, like gay bars or community  
25 centers, even by no means is that where all or a

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           majority of hate crimes occur. As said earlier, this  
3           woman in Mastic Beach was attacked on her own front yard  
4           with no signifying characteristics of being a lesbian.

5           MS. TRYLING: I think that is part of what  
6           make it so scary because gay people are everywhere and  
7           crimes against them are everywhere. They're hard to  
8           pinpoint. We focus in schools because New York mandates  
9           that the children go to school. So that is where kids  
10          of a certain age typically are, and that is the best way  
11          that we see to try to really talk to them about these  
12          issues in the school setting.

13          As you know, we also have lots of after school  
14          programs and places for kids to go. But more work needs  
15          to be done to figure out and pinpoint exactly been what  
16          you're asking.

17          THE CHAIRMAN: I'm always amazed to hear when  
18          some of the horrific things that our young people do and  
19          our capable of. From my experience, in just seeing how  
20          our young people, the age that they're growing up seems  
21          more diverse, more open-minded. When you hear of this  
22          intolerance is the word, when you hear these horrific  
23          acts, that goes against the perception that, at least  
24          that I see.

25          Yes, education is very important in a lot of

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           different communities involving hate crimes. I would be  
3           interested in hearing a little bit more as to what you  
4           feel the purpose of the advisory board would be. What  
5           would be the function and how it would be -- the  
6           composition of it.

7           MR. NEMENZ:    Partially it's just having us at  
8           the table. Other groups frequently targeted by hate  
9           crimes, from my understanding, have advisory boards, so  
10          it would be, as I said, having to sit at the table, have  
11          our voices heard and increase that communication. That  
12          is not there, apparently.

13          DR. KILMNICK:   If I could just add to that.  
14          We tend to see, while there are supportive folks  
15          verbally, a lot of that verbal does not come into action  
16          in terms of inclusion. I guess inclusion is really I  
17          think what I'm hearing. I know I'm hearing it because  
18          we talked about it. Inclusion is an important part to  
19          have a seat at the table and have a voice at the table,  
20          and that doesn't exist right now.

21          Suffolk County, through the Suffolk County  
22          Executive's Office, there are a couple of advisory  
23          boards targeting under-represented groups, marginalized  
24          groups. There is nothing for the GLTB community to  
25          communicate with all the different bodies in the

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           government, to function in a similar way to the Latino  
3           advisory board, et cetera.

4           THE CHAIRMAN: I know you're based in Bay  
5           Shore. Do you work on Long Island or mostly Suffolk  
6           County?

7           MS. TRYLING: We try to service all of Long  
8           Island. We do the best that we can. We are obviously  
9           in Suffolk County, every day. But we are also in Nassau  
10          County.

11          THE CHAIRMAN: The reason I ask that, my  
12          follow-up question, do you deal with Nassau County at  
13          all or even other municipalities? Is it a similar  
14          experience, different experience?

15          MS. TRYLING: I would say similar, yes.

16          THE CHAIRMAN: Are there some things in other  
17          municipalities we should be doing, that we are not  
18          doing?

19          MS. TRYLING: We are in a lot of the school  
20          districts in Nassau as well. There are, I think, if I  
21          keep my numbers straight, a hundred twenty-seven school  
22          districts on Long Island. Of those, that is not even --  
23          that is including the school districts without high  
24          schools. We have seventy-five gay straight alliance  
25          clubs that are in the schools. That is the second

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 largest gay straight alliance network in the nation,  
3 second only to California, which is slightly larger than  
4 Long Island.

5 That is very much a Long Island thing that we  
6 are doing as a Nassau-Suffolk togetherness, but right  
7 now, I would say that Nassau County has more GSA's  
8 looking to be in the middle schools than Suffolk County  
9 does. The only middle school GSA's in the last three  
10 years has been in the Jericho district and Nassau is  
11 starting up three or four more next fall, so Suffolk is  
12 a little behind on that.

13 MS. ORTIZ: The hotline that you mentioned  
14 earlier, is it specific to victims of hate crimes in the  
15 GLTB community or just a general help line?

16 MR. NEMENZ: It's a help line, it's not  
17 specifically for that. It's for many issues. Our  
18 office hours are nine a.m. to nine p.m. If something  
19 happens outside of those hours, you have to leave a  
20 message and we all know that can be a little  
21 discouraging. We do as much as we can with that.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: During this process earlier in  
23 the year and the latter part of last year, we had public  
24 hearings. The intent was to get feedback on victims of  
25 their experiences. We understand that being in a public

Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

1 setting, for those that haven't reported their crimes,  
2 the opportunity to report them, get an incident report  
3 and get the information to the appropriate authority, we  
4 want to reach out to your community, and what type of  
5 setting would be appropriate.  
6

7 If there are people that you are aware of that  
8 may have experienced hate crimes, and if there is one  
9 thing that I learned during this process, I think all of  
10 us have seen this is an emotional issue for everyone.

11 Although everything may not be a quote unquote hate  
12 crime, I want to say that is part of the problem.

13 Because of the way the law is defined, there is a  
14 perception that hate speech isn't a hate crime. I want  
15 to kind of differentiate that. I do want to try and  
16 reach out and find where those incidents are coming  
17 from, the types of environments the sources of that it.

18 We haven't gotten the response that we  
19 expected. We are looking, I guess, for you to give us  
20 some input as to how can we reach your community to give  
21 that information that we are looking for.

22 MR. NEMENZ: I'd say that with this community  
23 specifically it's going to be more difficult. It's  
24 still technically, it's federally legal to discriminate  
25 based on sexual identify, gender orientation or gender.

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 A lot of people fear losing their jobs and don't want to  
3 speak up about experiences they had. I would say if  
4 there is a media presence or anything like that, it can  
5 be very intimidating.

6 The youth from Newfield High School, even  
7 though we are a very safe space to come, still has  
8 trouble. He has not been yet. I have spoken to his  
9 mother on the phone. He is afraid of people finding  
10 out. He is suffering from post-traumatic stress  
11 disorder as a result of what happened to him.

12 There are a lot of factors on top of that that  
13 make it difficult for people to speak about their  
14 experiences. I think the first step would be to have a  
15 forum in our center in Bay Shore.

16 MS. TRYLING: I reiterate that. I think the  
17 location is important. I think it's important to think  
18 not only about space in terms of location, but space in  
19 terms of environment. You seem to be an open and  
20 welcoming group. Safe space is not made easily. Even  
21 when I'm talking with youth in workshops and talking  
22 with them and they're asking me how do I ask my  
23 friend. I think they might be a lesbian. I think she  
24 might be gay. I want her to know I'm cool with that.

25 Kids are having issues with how to let them

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           know it is a safe space. So much of how they live their  
3           lives is that every place not being a safe space,  
4           they're inundated with fear. I guess we first have to  
5           create an environment of calmness, and I think the best  
6           way to do that would bring it to the center.

7           But just like Wes said, just changing the  
8           location may not in and of itself bring you tons of more  
9           people coming forward.

10           THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else have any  
11           questions?

12           MS. AHEARN: Hi. Could you tell me a little bit  
13           about your workshops. You said middle school and high  
14           school. Are they auditorium type of settings or  
15           individual classrooms after school, during school?

16           MS. TRYLING: Yes.

17           MS. AHEARN: All of the above?

18           MS. TRYLING: Yes, that is the short answer.  
19           The long answer is we work with schools the way that  
20           they are doing things already. If they're used to  
21           having school assemblies, we want to be a school  
22           assembly. If they are used to having guest speakers in  
23           class, we will speak in the classroom.

24           We have found that kids will speak up more and  
25           talk about their personal experiences if we cap it at

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 fifty kids per workshop. Most successful workshops I  
3 have given don't have to be eighty kids, a hundred kids.  
4 It's very different. It really depends on the school.  
5 We wouldn't say no to any kind of style.

6 MS. AHEARN: You would basically customize  
7 the program for what the school's needs are?

8 MS. TRYLING: Absolutely.

9 MS. AHEARN: You would go down to the  
10 elementary level.

11 MS. TRYLING: We would.

12 MS. AHEARN: Have you had positive  
13 experiences going down to the elementary level?

14 MS. TRYLING: Yes.

15 MS. AHEARN: That is customized for each  
16 classroom?

17 MS. TRYLING: It's generally customized for  
18 the grades that we are speaking to. Grade level two to  
19 grade level six, there is going to be a difference.

20 REV. BARRETT: Did you initiate the calls or  
21 the schools call you?

22 MS. TRYLING: Schools call me. We are lucky  
23 at this point that we were out there, that the schools  
24 call us on a regular basis. However, we are kind of at  
25 capacity. We don't have that many staff people giving

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           these workshops, training for these workshops. We are  
3           out there as much as we can. If I could, I would be  
4           calling more schools and I would be setting up more  
5           workshops. Right now it's kind of a rock and a hard  
6           place. I would like to do more, but I can't physically  
7           do more.

8           MS. AHEARN:   Some of the schools not listed  
9           there may not know that you are there.

10          MS. TRYLING:   I doubt that. I doubt that.

11          DR. KILMNICK:   So, throughout our hearings  
12          over the past year, our presentations, we have heard  
13          somewhat from people about responsibility of elected  
14          officials when it comes to talking about different  
15          policies. In particular, we heard a lot about  
16          anti-immigrant sentiments.

17                 Would you guys be able to talk about those  
18          sentiments to public officials and how that might  
19          contribute to hate crimes?

20          MR. NEMENZ:   It's a trend that anti-gay hate  
21          crimes are on the rise during elections where human  
22          rights or equal rights are a central issue. I think  
23          that a lot of that has to do with the anti-gay rhetoric  
24          in saying gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender are  
25          less deserving of rights than heterosexual people. If

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2       you think about it, it's not that far of a stretch to  
3       say they're less deserving of human rights. It kind of  
4       creates the idea that GLTB people are sub human.

5           The most violent anti-gay hate crimes get  
6       horribly violent. It's not good enough to kill the  
7       person, but to maim the body and decapitate people.  
8       It's a common logic. It's because these people are seen  
9       as sub human. It dehumanizes them in some way.

10           MS. TRYLING:    So if we are electing  
11       government officials who are voting in a way that is  
12       going to increase the prevalence of the logic that GLTB  
13       people are not as deserving of basic rights than others,  
14       then we are voting people into office who are  
15       dehumanizing us, so absolutely I hold them responsible.

16           THE CHAIRMAN:   That brings to mind last  
17       year -- does your office does your organization receive  
18       calls based on the back and forth debate and the bill  
19       and vote on the marriage issue?

20           MS. TRYLING:    I don't know. The 501(c)(4)  
21       status, it is the political arm of the network, so the  
22       things concerning of that nature and the political  
23       nature would be dealt with by that organization, I guess  
24       would be the short answer.

25           DR. KILMICK:    Do you hear from people?

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Random calls their views about  
3 the bill.

4 MS. TRYLING: We had a marriage forum in  
5 December. It was one of the biggest community showings  
6 we had in a very long time just to give everybody a  
7 chance to speak their mind about how they saw the  
8 politics going in that direction.

9 DR. KILMNICK: If I could add to that. Right  
10 after the marriage vote, we had a Town Hall forum. We  
11 couldn't fit people in the building. People were in  
12 the bathroom listening to it. People were outraged that  
13 they watched our elected officials. Most of them did  
14 not have the guts or chutzpah to get up there to say why  
15 they voted no. Most of our Long Island officials voted  
16 no. Most of them were infuriated and outraged and  
17 didn't know what to do and thank God we had a place to  
18 come in and express, and the two senators who voted for  
19 it came down and spoke to the community that evening,  
20 along with someone from Governor Paterson's Office.  
21 There with over a hundred eighty people there in  
22 organizing in two days. That's it.

23 MS. ORTIZ: Did you see or notice any trend  
24 during that time when the bill was up for vote and  
25 controversial, did you notice that there were more

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 incidents?

3 MR. NEMENZ: The trouble with reporting it,  
4 it's really difficult to tell. A lot of people don't  
5 feel comfortable reporting it. In preparing for this,  
6 we found time and time again hate crimes happen year  
7 round. They tend to flare up around these times and  
8 become more violent around those times.

9 DR. KILMNICK: Where we have seen it. The  
10 thing in the New York State Senate came suddenly. They  
11 were talking about it for a while and all of a sudden it  
12 was on the floor for a vote. Where we did see it  
13 happen, and the marriage issue was in the presidential  
14 platform, but the recent debate on the don't ask, don't  
15 tell policy in the military. We certainly got a lot  
16 more phone calls are from all ages about not having such  
17 happy conversations and not feeling safe where they  
18 are.

19 There are a lot of people supporting the  
20 change in the policy, but giving people the platform to  
21 speak out, as Wes and Nick said, about a group being  
22 less than human. They're sort of being justified in  
23 doing it by our elected officials, from what I'm  
24 hearing, by saying it's our opinion, it's my religious  
25 belief, so I'm allowed to say that. If in other

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           situations why people may feel that about other groups,  
3           they wouldn't say that in public situations. That  
4           certainly won't be an item of discussion, whereas it's  
5           still allowed to be that way for the GLTB community and  
6           justified.

7           REV. PEARSON: I had a question. You're  
8           saying that there is trouble getting incidents reported.  
9           So are you saying that people even are not comfortable  
10          reporting them to your agency?

11          MS. TRYLING: No, I think a lot of times the  
12          trouble lies in reporting them to law enforcement and  
13          other people who might be able to help them.

14          REV. PEARSON: My question is, are you  
15          getting phone calls about education on the issues, or  
16          are you getting phone calls that people are experiencing  
17          crimes against them?

18          MS. TRYLING: I think we are getting phone  
19          calls about both.

20          REV. PEARSON: I guess what I'm trying to  
21          find out is what is the magnitude for the complaint from  
22          people, the phone calls that are incidents of crimes  
23          against them? Do you have some statistics, specifically  
24          for Suffolk County?

25          MS. TRYLING: No. I mentioned earlier that

**Five Star Reporting, Inc. d/b/a ADL Transcription Services**

\*\*\*\*\* Suites located in all boroughs \*\*\*\*\*

(631) 224-5054

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           is why we were referring to the national statistics  
3           because there have been no funds allocated. Nobody has  
4           been able to do a study on Long Island or here in  
5           Suffolk County. Nobody has released one, if they're  
6           doing one currently that I know of.

7           Until I can add that to the list of  
8           recommendations, until we do that study, we have nothing  
9           to compare it to but the national.

10          REV. PEARSON:    What I'm trying to point to,  
11          I understand that we have a discrimination issue. I'm  
12          trying to get do we have a crime issue.

13          MR. NEMENZ:     Absolutely.

14          DR. KILMNICK:    I really don't like doing  
15          this, but I guess it's important to have it in the  
16          record. The recommendation where it says allocate  
17          resources. This county only gives a hundred sixteen  
18          thousand dollars to the organization sitting here to  
19          serve the entire county to do all the sensitivity  
20          training, to cover all the way west in Suffolk County to  
21          all the way east as far as you can go. That is  
22          despicable in terms of getting out there to do the  
23          work.

24          We see crimes happening during the day in the  
25          hall with people watching, and we see it on people's

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2       property. That point about allocating resources goes to  
3       the crux of what this task force is about, at least the  
4       recommendations that Wes gave in terms of how we can  
5       address the sources of hate crimes here in Suffolk  
6       County. One of the issues is to get the word out to  
7       folks in the community that they can come to the center  
8       and the police department is willing to come to the  
9       center and meet them there.

10           That is part of the frustration that I know  
11       that we are experiencing, and certainly you heard from  
12       Nick in that they don't call schools. If they called  
13       schools, they wouldn't be able to meet demand. This  
14       anti-bullying bill to hold schools accountable it's no  
15       good if it's an unfunded mandate. Schools may want the  
16       education and want to bring people in. That is why  
17       allocating resources is going to be important if we are  
18       going to address the real issues of what is causing hate  
19       crimes, which is what this task force is supposed to be  
20       about, I think.

21           REV. PEARSON: The question that was asked  
22       earlier, there is, in the southern poverty law census  
23       report, it talks about politicians, government  
24       rhetoric. Do you see that kind of rhetoric from,  
25       without naming names, from political sources in

1           Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010  
2           government, because I want to get specific to the  
3           question to Suffolk County. Politicals, are you  
4           experiencing that kind of rhetoric that was discussed  
5           earlier?

6           MR. NEMENZ: I would say yes. I'd say any  
7           time a politician or legislator comes out in support of  
8           denying basic human rights to GLTB people, that is a  
9           form of that rhetoric. Whether it's not so explicitly  
10          stated is irrelevant, in my opinion. I think just the  
11          fact to say no to human rights is to devalue another  
12          human being in that aspect.

13          I just wanted to make one more, just kind of  
14          iterate again how difficult it is. Nick and I are  
15          very -- we're out members of our community and we are  
16          very fortunate in that way to have supportive family and  
17          friends. For victims of these crimes, it is nowhere  
18          mere that easy. There might be family members who might  
19          feel they had it coming, to be bluntly honest.

20          I'm happy to be a representative of my  
21          community in that way. I know I'm lucky to be here  
22          right now and so many people are not, and feel very  
23          inhibited by that fear by the homophobia. And to have a  
24          physically violent attack for being who they are can  
25          just do things that I couldn't even imagine to the

1 Hate Crimes Task Force - May 13, 2010

2 psyche that would make it difficult to even report the  
3 crimes to us.

4 I just wanted to make that point very clear  
5 that it's important.

6 MS. ORTIZ: Is it safe to say -- I don't  
7 want to be presumptuous -- is it just you two that are  
8 doing the training?

9 MS. TRYLING: Yes.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your time.

11 MR. NEMENZ: Thank you for having us. It  
12 means a lot.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Everyone has the notice for  
14 the next meeting. I don't know who we will have.  
15 Hopefully we will have one. That is the 25th of May,  
16 same time, five o'clock. Does anyone have anything? If  
17 not, we will adjourn. Thank you.

18 (Time noted: 6:10 p.m.)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)

)

ss:

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

I, JUDI GALLOP, a Stenotype Reporter  
and Notary Public for the State of New  
York, do hereby certify:

THAT this is a true and accurate transcription  
of the Suffolk County Hate Crimes Task Force  
meeting held on May 13, 2010.

I further certify that I am not  
related, either by blood or marriage, to  
any of the parties in this action; and

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 9th day of June, 2010.

Judi Gallop  
JUDI GALLOP