



THE COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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The Council for Human Rights
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Official Statement

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Council for Human Rights, a Grand Rapids, MI based 501(c)(3) human rights organization, is requesting that the United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan use its federal powers under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 to investigate the ethnic intimidation case involving Shelly L. Hueckel of Barry County, Michigan. The Council for Human Rights is formally requesting a federal hate crimes investigation, based on Terrance Smith's race/ethnicity, against Shelly L. Hueckel.

The Judge in the case, Honorable Judge Paul Sullivan, found that the case did not meet the standard for ethnic intimidation under Michigan Penal Code. The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 allows local law enforcement and the justice system to pursue hate crime charges with an investigation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

We are formally requesting that the United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan pursue a hate crimes investigation under federal law given the presence of racial slurs and physical assault. Additionally, Michigan Penal Code prescribes that emotional distress and a civil suit could be pursued by the victim and their legal representation. It is important to note that I am not an attorney. I am not attempting to provide any legal advice. I am making a request for legal enforcement on behalf of the organization I represent.

Thank You,

Chris Surfus
Founder/President
The Council for Human Rights

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