



THE COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
www.chrusa.org

The Council for Human Rights
PO Box 235
Byron Center, MI 49315
www.chrusa.org
info@chrusa.org

Official Statement

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Today, The Council for Human Rights, a Grand Rapids, MI based 501(c)(3) human rights organization, was considering writing to the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan to request an investigation into the Kevin Bacon homicide as a potential "hate crime." Far too often, there are cases like this that turn out to be motivated by anti-LGBTQ+ bias. This appears not to be the case here, based on the information that is currently available.

In instances like this, we have to be careful not to call something a "hate crime" in jumping to a conclusion, but rather it is important to use federal powers afforded under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 to request that the US Attorney open a federal investigation to determine if a hate crime happened or not. This would bring the US Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in to investigate a potential federal hate crimes violation. Again, this appears to be a much different type of case here, and there is still information that we do not know.

Kevin Bacon's family deserves justice in this tragedy. Our deepest condolences go out to his family.

Sincerely,

Chris Surfus
Founder/President
The Council for Human Rights

###