

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE BEMOANS AND CONDEMNS THE BEATING OF GAY NEW YORK CITY MAN

NBCI offers its prayers to the family of Jack Price and shuns any and all hate crimes.

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 churches across America, is appalled and saddened by the recent hate crime on New York City resident Jack Price. Price, a gay man, was leaving a corner deli when he was brutally attacked by two men who shouted anti-gay slurs at him before proceeding to viciously and malevolently beat him. Price suffered many injuries including collapsed lungs, broken ribs and a plethora of broken bones, and is now in a medically induced coma. Doctors are calling his condition serious, but stable. The two men thought responsible for this senseless act of violence have been arrested and charged with a hate crime.

This kind of action and behavior is appalling and NBCI will not stand idly by while it occurs. NBCI publicly condemns this and any other violence towards the homosexual community and demands that the full extent of the law be brought down on these two men, who so callously harmed another of God's children. All men on this earth have the God given right to safety and happiness no matter what their race, creed or sexual orientation is, and anyone who claims to be committing these acts of violence in the name of God is a liar. NBCI will do all that is within its power to make sure that the men who attacked Price are convicted of the crimes that they committed and punished accordingly.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, said, "This is the umpteenth time that we have spoken out against violence against our beloved gay brothers and sisters. Violence is never the solution to any complaint, disagreement or problem. We have been consistent about our stance on this issue. We will continue to be. On this issue we will continue to work hand-in-hand with local, state and national gay organizations to stop all violence against gays. We can disagree with the gay community without inflicting violence towards them. The church will never condone violence in any way. We will monitor Mr. Price's condition and I have instructed our clergies to

visit him whenever it is appropriate to do so. I am even trying to take a trip to New York to be by Mr. Price's bedside to demonstrate our resolve and our commitment to putting an end to the violence against our gay brothers and sisters here in America and across the world."

NBCI has instructed all of its member churches, especially those in New York City, to offer their prayers for Jack Price and his family. The churches have also been instructed to offer prayers to the families of both men arrested in hopes that they can somehow be forgiven for the terrible crime they committed and learn that to hate someone because of their sexuality is immoral and wrong. NBCI routinely preaches that violence against gays is wrong, and offers discussion and support groups throughout its churches as part of its Civil Society Initiative, which is designed to produce a society based on good ethics, morals and civility.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI's purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.