



Two Men Arrested for Assaulting Trans* Women on MARTA but Will Their Arrest Do Anything to END Trans* Violence?

As a diverse Coalition led by trans* people of color, we do not believe that our current criminal justice system is an effective mechanism of accountability, and we are not calling for lengthy sentences for the men that have been arrested for the May 20 attacks of 3 trans women on the MARTA train in Atlanta, GA. We don't measure the value of our lives by how much life is taken from someone else and we don't believe that long sentences in brutal, inhumane prisons will teach these men a lesson or bridge the gap between communities.

Trans people of color suffer as much harassment and abuse at the hands of the police and inside our jails as we do on the streets or on the train. It is too easy for the City of Atlanta and MARTA to say they have solved this issue by arresting and prosecuting the men who initiated this attack. But let's be real - that actually will not make us safer. The City should model treating trans people with respect and dignity by first ending the abuse perpetrated by their own police department. The trans community needs jobs, housing, health care and to be treated with respect by the police department - the city can take leadership in these matters.

We would like to see the men who were arrested participate in a restorative or transformative justice process that centers the healing and well being of the victim/survivor instead of the punishment of the perpetrator. We would like to see these men complete a rigorous Men Stopping Violence course, do community service in support of a LGBT community organization, and listen directly to the women they harmed and the larger community. We would like to see Janell and Tyra be offered resources for healing from the trauma they endured, and for the MARTA police to apologize for harassing them rather than asking whether they were hurt, offering a ride, or otherwise helping them feel safe and protected.

The City of Atlanta should be deeply disturbed by the acts of harassment and violence endured by trans* women both at the hands of the Atlanta Police Department and by the general public on trains, buses, and on the streets. Our lives matter, trans* lives matter and we will no longer be silent or swept aside. **Enough is Enough!**

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING which will be focused on this incident and what should be done about it: **Tuesday, June 3rd at 5:30 at the Philip Rush Center Annex** (behind the main building) 1530 DeKalb Ave in Atlanta (near Candler Park MARTA station). Have you been harassed or targeted by police or the public as a trans* or gender non-conforming person? Come out and tell your story and be part of making CHANGE so that no one else has to go through it!



OUR CALL TO ACTION!

The City of Atlanta has a problem....and it's not us!

We demand that Mayor Reed address this incident and publicly commit to making this a city that protects and respects trans* and gender non conforming people wherever we may walk, ride, or drive in our city!

Contact Mayor Reed at mayorreed@atlantaga.gov or by phone at (404) 330-6100 and let him know that he must address the violent attacks on trans* women and lead the City to end anti-trans* violence! Trans* and gender non conforming people deserve to be safe wherever we may walk, ride or drive in our city!

Tweet @KasimReed

Sample Tweets:

@KasimReed #ATL and @MARTAServices has a problem #protecting and supporting #trans* people. We deserve better!#dignity #apologize and lead!

@KasimReed Is #ATL truly a city too busy to hate? Protect #girlslikeus whether on #MARTA, walking or driving in our city. #translivesmatter

@MartaService #Trans people are not the problem but being safe on MARTA is! #apologize and train your staff that #translivesmatter #dignity

Comment on his Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/KasimReed>

ABOUT SOLUTIONS NOT PUNISHMENT [SNaP CO]

Solutions Not Punishment is a broad based coalition with close to a hundred organizational and individual members. The Coalition is anchored by the Racial Justice Action Center, La Gender and (Trans)forming and works to build the power of people targeted and profiled by the Atlanta Police Department – especially Trans* and gender non conforming people of color, current and former street level sex workers, and formerly incarcerated people. SNaP Co works to transform the city into a vibrant, inclusive Atlanta that ensures the safety of, and holistically meets the needs of all the city's stakeholders and residents.

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For more information on Solutions Not Punishment Coalition please contact Everette Thompson at (404) 514-9215, Thompson@rjactioncenter.org and/or Xochitl Bervera (404)861-0756, xochitl@rjactioncenter.org. Follow us on twitter @RJActionCenter and join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/snapro/>