



***From Midtown to MARTA to Little Five Points: The Violence Continues
Solutions Not Punishment Coalition proposes real solutions for a safe
and inclusive community for all Atlanta residents***

Sadly, it has happened again. It has not even been two months since the last violent attack on a member of *our* trans community, and last Tuesday evening another video surfaced on the Vine Social Media Network of a trans woman being confronted by a jeering audience apparently questioning her gender identity, mental health status and existence. This quickly turned into a heinous physical attack with the person being brutally stomped in the head.

This is another example of the violence that daily threatens our communities' ability to belong and survive. Solutions Not Punishment Coalition's collective heart goes out to the survivor of this violence and hopes wherever she is, she knows we are committed to offer resources and support should she choose to come forward.

Rumors have circulated about the survivor's mental health and housing situation as if those things explain the attack. We reject and urge the larger community to reject that kind of thinking. We do not know this person and do not speak for them. But we do know that if we stand for trans* people and the trans* community, then we stand for *all* trans* people – including those who may have mental health issues or who struggle with addiction or who are homeless or sex workers. No one deserves to be brutally beat down, have it filmed on video and broadcast for the world to gawk at.

Incidents like these show us exactly why we need to unite and organize against violence and demand real solutions to the very serious challenges our community faces. SNAP Coalition is a place where we join together to ensure that the people of Atlanta and our elected officials know that we will no longer accept discrimination, ridicule, and violence. We want change!

There are real actions Atlanta can and must take. SNaP Co has been working for over 18 months for viable solutions to many of our community's challenges and we invite all to join in calling for initiatives that will actually get to the roots of the problems and create an Atlanta we can ALL be proud of:

1. As we said after the MARTA attack: **The City of Atlanta should partner with MARTA and other transportation systems and embark on a public education campaign** similar to the Trans and Gender Identity Respect Campaign out of Washington, D.C. We envision trans* and gender non-conforming artists designing billboards and posters that would educate all our city's residents that we are all welcome, and our lives matter. The city can make this happen NOW.

2. **Instead of having the APD harass** trans women in midtown, the City of Atlanta needs to invest in **quality and wraparound services** that can serve our city's most vulnerable residents. We *all* know that the City of Atlanta has embarrassingly few resources for people needing mental health services, addiction services, and emergency housing especially for trans* and gender nonconforming people. By implementing a **pre-booking diversion program** that builds this network of services for the larger trans* and gender nonconforming community and transforms the culture of our police department we can give our community the resources it needs to thrive.

And of course there are things that we can do as a community:

1. We're asking that the media and the public to **PLEASE STOP forwarding videos of this violent attack**. These images are disrespectful to the survivor and triggering and re-traumatizing to all survivors of violence. We must stop sensationalizing violence that continues to happen to members of our community.
2. To our communities, **we challenge every single one of us to do better about coming forward and speaking out to stop an attack** when we see one happening -- rather than standing back and recording it. As a community, we must take better care of our brothers and sisters. We encourage anyone who witnessed the violence that occurred in front of Stratosphere Skate Shop in Little Five Points to join with us to eliminate violence in this city. **Together, we can transform Atlanta!**

Solutions Not Punishment Coalition invites all community members concerned with this violence and committed to real solutions to our membership meetings held the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 at the Rush Center.

ABOUT SOLUTIONS NOT PUNISHMENT [SNaP CO]

Solutions Not Punishment is a broad based coalition that works to build the power of people most likely to be victims of violence *and* most likely to be arrested and harassed by police, 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. Join us!

**For more information on Solutions Not Punishment Coalition please contact
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