



Task Force Charges Bungling of Anti-Gay Killing

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The death of a Detroit gay man, Andrew Anthos, 72, after a February 13 anti-gay assault has been ruled "natural" by the Wayne County medical examiner who maintains that he died of injuries "probably suffered in a fall complicated by his arthritic neck," rather than from an attack, the Associated Press reported.

According to Anthos himself, who gave a statement before slipping into a coma, and a witness, he was the victim of anti-gay harassment on a city bus. When he got off the bus, the male harasser followed him and stood over him after Anthos fell to the ground as a result of what the victim believed was a blow from a pipe the perpetrator wielded.

Matt Foreman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said his group is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the alleged attacker. The witness gave police a description of the suspect.

Foreman termed the police "mishandling" of the investigation "appalling," saying that they "simply want to sweep it under the rug." He said they "failed to involve the community in finding additional witnesses, they have ignored Mr. Anthos' family, and they are using a coroner's report to negate Mr. Anthos' deathbed statements and those of an eyewitness."

Foreman added, "We've seen the same kinds of things happen time and again in the way in which police respond to hate violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people."

The Triangle Foundation in Michigan is working closely with the family and is also calling on police to re-open the case.