



STATE OF NEW YORK | EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
DAVID A. PATERSON | GOVERNOR

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STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR DAVID A. PATERSON ON HATE CRIMES IN NEW YORK STATE

“Today I met with the family of Jose Sucuzhanay, a hardworking father of two with a bright future and close family who was fatally beaten in Brooklyn earlier this month. This violent attack took place just weeks after we mourned the deaths of Marcello Lucero, the Long Island resident of Ecuadorian descent beaten to death last month in Suffolk County, and Lateisha Green, the transgendered Syracuse woman who police believe was murdered because of her sexual orientation. Mr. Sucuzhanay was walking with his brother when he was attacked by strangers without provocation because he was Hispanic, and because his attackers mistakenly believed he was gay. New Yorkers cannot and will not tolerate this.

“It is easy to feel powerless in the face of evil and bigotry, but we are not. First, let me be clear that I will work with law enforcement to ensure these crimes are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Second, these deaths are jarring reminders that we must remain vigilant and continue our fight to eradicate prejudice in our words and in our actions. We must teach our children, our friends, our family and our neighbors to honor and value our differences, not fear them.

“It is heartbreaking that the family I met with today was robbed of their loved one. How do you tell children that their parent was taken from them for no reason? How do you console parents whose child is killed for merely being himself? Society is judged on how we treat our fellow man. This is not the New York that we aspire to. I ask all parents to sit down tonight and talk to their children about diversity, and what it means to live in a tolerant society. We must do better.”

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