



## PRESS RELEASE

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## EQUALITY TEXAS RESPONDS TO ASSAULT OF TWO GAY MALES NEAR AUSTIN CITY HALL

### PRESS CONFERENCE:

Equality Texas and Council Members Laura Morrison and Randi Shade  
Thursday, February 25; 12:00pm  
Austin City Hall (Media Room); 301 W. 2nd St.

Equality Texas will host a press conference to discuss an assault against two gay males that occurred early Saturday morning near City Hall. The two victims were walking from a popular gay nightclub on 4th Street when they were attacked by four men, Saturday morning (Feb 20th) around 2:30a.m.

While the investigation is still underway, the incident has raised safety concerns in the gay community as well as questions about how these types of crimes are reported.

The incident was discussed Tuesday night on OutCast Radio (KOOP 91.7fm) by Host Heath Riddles who interviewed the two victims, Matt Morgan and Emmanuel Winston, and Council Member Laura Morrison.

"As city leaders, we have the responsibility to ensure we have the investigative processes in place to identify possible hate crimes," Council Member Morrison said. "When I first heard of this incident on Monday, I called the Police Chief. The Austin Police Department is taking this matter very seriously and has launched a full investigation of the assault."

"It is upsetting when anyone in our community is assaulted. It threatens the feeling of safety of our entire community," said openly gay Council Member Randi Shade, "We in the LGBT community are fortunate to live in Austin, a community known for being gay friendly, and I am confident that APD will do everything in its power to investigate this crime and ensure that justice is served."

Council Members Laura Morrison and Randi Shade will attend the press conference.

***Equality Texas*** advocates and lobbies for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation

and gender identity/expression. **Equality Texas Foundation** educates and engages the public about policies and their effect on Texans of all sexual orientations and gender identities/expressions.



More information on our work is available at [www.EqualityTexas.org](http://www.EqualityTexas.org)

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