

Declaration in Solidarity with Victims of Club Q Shooting

November 19, 2022

Every innocent death should be mourned. But, when vulnerable LGBTQ+ people are slaughtered while celebrating life, we must speak up. That five fellow Coloradans were murdered at Club Q in Colorado Springs in a heinous act of gun violence turns our sadness to outrage. Few understand better than the people of Boulder how bitter it is when a person in possession of a weapon of mass murder can enter a public place and kill community members mercilessly. Our hearts go out to the victims, to their families, to the people of Colorado Springs, and, in particular, to queer people living in fear of the next attack.

The names of the five people who were murdered at Club Q on Saturday, November 19, are Daniel Aston, Kelly Loving, Ashley Paugh, Derrick Rump, and Raymond Green Vance. Twenty-five others were injured at Club Q that night.

Queer communities in Boulder, in Colorado Springs, around our state, and across our country live in fear of hatred, condemnation, assault, and death. They are attacked because of who they are, how they dress, who they love.

Our LGBTQ+ community members should not bear this burden. Each one of us, straight or queer, must protect those who are most vulnerable, those who are most likely to be attacked or killed. We must stand between those who would commit violence and those who they intend to hurt, absorbing words of abuse, fists thrown in anger, bullets.

The German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller wrote of the years of Nazi terror:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out
--because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out
--because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out
--because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me
--and there was no one left to speak for me.

And, so it is today with our queer community. If we do not speak out for them, if we do not stand for them, if we do not defend them, then we ourselves are complicit in the hatred and violence. It is our duty as humans to protect one another. This duty is all the more essential when the person we must protect doesn't look like us, doesn't come from where we came from, doesn't act like us, doesn't love the way we do. Indeed, to defend a person who is least like us is the highest calling any human can aspire to.

Therefore, we, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado, declare our solidarity with those killed and injured at Club Q on November 19, 2022, with the LGBTQ+ community in Colorado Springs, and with all queer people, wherever they live. It is our solemn pledge to you that the fear you feel today will, someday, be merely a sad memory.



Aaron Brockett, Mayor

