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BRAVO mourns the loss of Robert Goodrich and Randy Gwirtz in Columbus, Ohio

BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization) responds to the homicides of Robert Goodrich, 62 and Randy Gwirtz, 63.

Reports indicate both men were stabbed and died while meeting someone from a popular dating app (i.e. Grindr, Scruff, Plenty of Fish, etc.). All of us at BRAVO are saddened to learn of these most recent homicides our thoughts and hearts are with the family, chosen family, and friends of both Robert and Randy at this time.

“BRAVO is saddened to learn of these pick-up related bias related homicides. Dating should be fun and engaging not life threatening. These crimes underscore the importance of renewed conversation on hate and bias violence in the LGBTQ+ communities”, says Aaron Eckhardt, Director of BRAVO. “Over the past few years at BRAVO we know hate and bias violence is increasing and we must call on all of our systems and communities to work together with renewed energy.”

According to media sources, Columbus police just recently connected the two homicides and method of contact and have made an arrest in conjunction with these homicides. At this time Columbus police have not commented further on any motive, however, given the offender allegedly used an LGBTQ+ dating app to target victims it is hard to rule out anti-LGBTQ+ hate and bias motivation.

BRAVO encourages anyone who has experienced anti-LGBTQ violence in Ohio to contact us toll free at 866-86-BRAVO or text us at 614-333-1907, or visit our website (live web chat available) at http://www.bravo-ohio.org. To learn more about our statewide advocacy, survivor services, receive trainings, and/or support, contact BRAVO. For help locating an anti-violence program in your area, please visit www.ncavp.org.

BRAVO works in solidarity with organizations throughout the state, and with all Ohioans as we come together responding to these heinous act of violence.

Please connect with BRAVO via www.facebook.com/bravoavp or signup for our email updates on our website http://www.bravo-ohio.org for updates and any information regarding community response.

BRAVO works to eliminate violence perpetrated on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking through prevention, education, advocacy, violence documentation, and survivor services.

BRAVO is a founding member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)