



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Contact: Ana Victoria Fortes  
(202) 681-0857  
[afortes@usccr.gov](mailto:afortes@usccr.gov)

**Wyoming Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Public Briefing: *Hate Crimes in Wyoming***

On November 1, 2019, in Casper, the Wyoming Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a public briefing to gather testimony on hate crimes. Among related concerns, the Committee will receive testimony on the sufficiency of current equal protection laws in Wyoming, the prevalence of bias-related incidents, the prevalence of hate groups, and barriers that may prevent law enforcement from addressing bias-related crimes.

**EVENT:**     **Wyoming Advisory Committee Public Briefing:  
                  *Hate Crimes in Wyoming***

**WHEN:**     **Friday, November 1, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MT**

**WHERE:**    **Casper College, Strausner Hall, Room 217  
                  125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601**

The Committee invites members of the public in attendance to share their comments and opinions during two open comment sessions, at 11:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to [afortes@usccr.gov](mailto:afortes@usccr.gov) by December 1, 2019. Following the meeting, the Committee will issue its findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission.

Dr. Robert Byrd, Chair of the Committee, stated: “The Advisory Committee presents to the citizens of Wyoming a unique opportunity to explore a gathering of information focused on the civil rights and concerns related to hate motivated incidents and crimes in our state. We as a committee want to fully explore and understand hate crimes in Wyoming. Then, perhaps, we as Wyomingites can consider a way to move forward that enables law enforcement, legislators, and state government officials to address these incidents, if any, which may exist in the State of Wyoming.”

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has frequently expressed concern about hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents across the nation. The Wyoming Advisory Committee joins a number of other state Committees in working to address – and stem - these heinous acts.

**Wyoming Advisory Committee to the  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

***Hate Crimes in Wyoming***

**Friday, November 1, 2019**

Casper College, Strausner Hall, Room 217  
125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601

**AGENDA**

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

**Panel 1: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

Dennis and Judy Shepard, Founders, Matthew Shepard Foundation  
Scott Levin, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League

**Panel 2: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**

Kai Wiggins, Policy Analyst, Arab American Institute  
Michael McDaniel, Creator, Wyoming Hate Watch  
Sergio Maldonado Sr., Northern Arapaho Tribe-Mexican American

**Morning Open Comment: 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Break**

**Panel 3: 1:45 – 2:35 p.m.**

Nate Martin, Executive Director, A Better Wyoming  
Reverend Steve Mack, NAACP of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming

**Panel 4: 2:50 – 3:45 p.m.**

\*Representative, Department of Justice  
\*Representative, Casper Police Department  
\*Representative, Natrona County Sheriff

**Afternoon Open Comment: 3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Closing Remarks**

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*