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### **Statement of Gloria Allred**

This morning we filed a lawsuit on behalf of Ken Fox against Redmond O'Neal as a result of an unprovoked attack by Mr. O'Neal on Ken on May 2, 2018.

Ken had never met, communicated with or ever heard of Redmond O'Neal prior to encountering him on the day of this incident. Ken was simply walking to the laundromat with a hamper of clothes. While walking, Ken who was a happy gay man and had studied opera was singing to himself "What's New" as he walked.

Redmond walked towards him and the two men briefly made eye contact. Ken alleges that Mr. O'Neal then stated to Ken "What are you looking at, faggot?"

Ken further alleges that suddenly, without provocation, Mr. O'Neal struck Ken in the head with a bottle causing Ken to fall to the ground.

Ken also alleges that while he was down on the ground injured and bleeding from the sudden attack, Redmond continued to throw punches at him and threaten him while shouting expletives at him including "You fucking faggot, crying like a fucking baby." As a result of what Ken alleges that Redmond O'Neal said and did to him on the day of this incident, we filed a lawsuit this morning in L.A. County Superior Court alleging assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, violation of the Ralph Civil Rights Act, negligence, loss of consortium, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

We are seeking damages according to proof at trial, including punitive damages.

The L.A. County District Attorney has also filed a criminal felony assault charge against Redmond O'Neal as a result of the unprovoked attack alleged by Ken.

Any violent attack is serious, but an attack which appears to be motivated by the sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation of the victim is of particular concern.

In California, the Ralph Civil Rights Act which is Civil Code 51.7 provides that “...all persons within the state of California have the right to be free from any violence or intimidation by threat of violence, committed on his person on account of, without limitation, his sexual orientation.”

We contend in our lawsuit that a substantial motivating reason for Redmond O’Neal’s conduct towards Ken was Mr. O’Neal’s perception of Ken’s sexual orientation.

The word “faggot” is clearly recognized as a derogatory and offensive homophobic slur against individuals who are perceived to be gay or who are gay.

When gay men are vilified and denigrated in this way, it often leads to physical violence against them and physical as well as emotional injuries to them.

The use of such a demeaning word followed by an attack is considered under the law to be vile, despicable and contemptible, and in violation of the rights of a gay man.

This is why we have filed this lawsuit today and this is also the reason that Ken is willing to testify in the criminal case filed against Mr. O’Neal.

There must be serious consequences for anyone who engages in violence against innocent victims and particularly where the victim is victimized on account of his status as a member of a minority which has a long history of persecution and violence against them on account of their sexual orientation.

We demand justice for Ken Fox and accountability in both the civil and criminal justice system from Redmond O’Neal.

Gloria Allred  
Attorney at Law  
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Representing Ken Fox