



Not In Our Town e-News

for ordinary people transforming their communities

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Read the full stories and share your thoughts on the [NIOT blog](#).

Community Gathers in Support of Richmond, CA Hate Crime Victim

After the recent beating of Brandon Manning, a 24-year-old African American resident, the Richmond chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called a vigil in El Sobrante, CA on Feb. 5, 2009, to support Manning and his family.



Two dozen community members joined city and religious leaders who huddled together in the rain at the park where Manning was attacked.

"I'm here to give my support to the Manning family," said Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin. "Ultimately I want to say Richmond is a place that welcomes people of all races, creeds and cultures, all sexual orientations -- and at times like this, we come together to support each other and to strengthen our resolve and ability to respond and to just come back stronger." [Read more and watch video.](#)



Watch Tulia, Texas on PBS Tuesday, February 10

Film about racial injustice and the drug wars premieres on PBS Tuesday, February 10. Produced by Not In Our Town filmmaker Kelly Whalen.

Tune into [Independent Lens on PBS](#) this week (February 10, 2009) for "Tulia, Texas," a powerful film by



Cassandra Herrman and Kelly Whalen about a terrible miscarriage of justice in a small West Texas town.

[Watch the "Tulia, Texas" trailer](#) on the [NIOT.org](#) blog.

We encourage NIOT members to organize a community screening of this important film about race and our criminal justice system, and the power of community organizing to confront institutional racism. For local listings and PBS broadcast schedule, visit the [Independent Lens site](#).

NYU Media Scholar Highlights *Not In Our Town* in Civic Engagement Research

Not In Our Town is one of three films highlighted in "Social Issue Documentary: The Evolution of Public Engagement," a recent [Center for Social Media](#) report by Barbara Abrash, Director of Public Policy Programs at the Center for Media, Culture, and History at New York University.

Abrash selected the *Not In Our Town* films and campaign to show how innovative approaches in community outreach, social networking, multimedia, and civic engagement are breaking new ground in the realm of public media. [Read the full story](#).

Brockton Community Stands Up Against Horrific Hate Crime

"Silence is death. And we can't be silent any longer... we have to raise our voices as one strong voice," said Rabbi Joshua Cohen at a community vigil held in Brockton, MA after a horrific hate crime last month left two people dead and one hospitalized.

22-year-old Keith Luke allegedly killed a 20-year-old woman and a 72-year-old man. Luke also allegedly raped and shot the 22-year-old sister of the woman who died. He was finally brought down by police after he crashed into two vehicles while trying to evade the cops in his van.



Hundreds of Brockton residents gathered together at a local synagogue for a vigil held after a horrific hate crime hit the town last month. (Photo credit: Justine Hunt/The Boston Globe)

All of Luke's victims are of Cape Verdean descent. Authorities say Luke, who is white, was intending to kill as many nonwhites and Jews as he could.

There have been a series of vigils and rallies in the days following the crimes. The Anti-Defamation League of New England hosted a peace vigil just four days after the murders at Temple Beth Emunah, which authorities say Luke was planning to attack. [Read more](#).

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