



City of Missoula
Police Department
Press Release

For immediate release:

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The Missoula Police Department has completed an investigation into the reported assault alleged to have occurred in front of the Missoula Club on Sunday, July 5, 2012 at approximately 1:30 AM. The report was initiated by 22-year old JOSEPH BAKEN, who indicated the attack was due to his sexual orientation.

Police investigators worked the case aggressively to identify any leads to who the perpetrators of such a bias based crime might be. After receiving a tip from a local newspaper journalist, the investigators also received video evidence to support the allegation of the assault was in question. **It has now been determined that the assault did not occur.** Video evidence taken by unidentified sources was examined and demonstrates that JOSEPH BAKEN caused injury to himself by attempting a backward somersault and striking his head on the sidewalk at about 2:30 AM on Higgins Avenue.

JOSEPH BAKEN was contacted by Missoula Police Detectives and during a subsequent interview he admitted that the alleged assault against him did not occur as it was reported.

JOSEPH BAKEN has been cited for making a False Report to Law Enforcement per Montana Code 45-7-205 M.C.A and pleaded guilty this afternoon in Missoula Municipal Court. The decision to file criminal charges was due in part to the sense of fear and anger that quickly developed after Baken had identified a specific business and possible suspects in his allegations.

"The Police Department is grateful for the communities concerns and willingness to come forward with valuable information in this case. The incident was resolved quickly due to the information received and will hopefully allow the GLBTI community some needed relief from the fear that was virally spreading across the country," Chief Mark Muir stated. _End_