STATEMENT FROM OUT MONTCLAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER YACOBELLIS ON THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT AN LGBTQIA+ NIGHTCLUB IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

(Montclair, NJ - November 20, 2022) – Out Montclair, a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization established in 2021 to provide community, support, and solidarity for LGBTQIA+ people, and founder and Executive Director Peter Yacobellis, have issued a statement on the tragic mass shooting in Colorado Springs, Colorado overnight, that killed at least five people and injured at least 18 others:

“We at Out Montclair are disgusted and sad to hear about yet another attack on an LGBTQ+ establishment, where innocent lives have been lost. While the details of the Colorado Springs attack are still emerging and the motive remains unknown, as an organization that exists to create safe spaces for our community, attacks like this will naturally and sadly create fear. From our programs for teens and families to seniors and singles, to our huge pride festival; we know how vital what we do is to people just looking to be heard, to connect with other people, and feel safe. We also take our role in educating the larger community about who we are and what our needs are, very seriously. We believe that being ourselves and being heard is the only way we’ll ever truly be understood. We’ll never stop gathering and finding the community we desperately need. Thank you to all of our allies for supporting us.”

Yacobellis’ statement can also be found on the Out Montclair Instagram page, here.

The tragedy in Colorado Springs happened on the eve of Transgender Day of Remembrance, established to mourn and remember the lives of transgender people killed by violence in the previous year. The Montclair Interfaith Clergy Association will host its 6th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service tonight between 5:00-6:30pm, at First Lutheran Church of Montclair, 153 Park Street. Additional TDoR commemorations are also planned in:

Newark @5:30 at the YMCA
Princeton @1pm at 12 Stockton Street
Community organizations like Out Montclair provide safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ people and allies to gather, find support and celebrate each other.

Out Montclair just launched our year-end giving campaign, please consider supporting with a contribution today: [https://outmontclair.org/donate](https://outmontclair.org/donate)

Out Montclair also recently announced a date for the second annual Montclair Pride, Saturday, June 10, 2023, after the success of the inaugural Montclair Pride in June 2022. At least 14,200 people gathered to celebrate and elevate the LGBTQIA+ community in Montclair and throughout the state.

In addition to Montclair Pride, Out Montclair hosts events year-round to provide space, support, resources and solidarity for the LGBTQIA+ community, including Out Montclair Families, Adults aged 50+, Out Montclair Teens and Out at Night. See the Out Montclair events page to save the date and RSVP for events year-round, [here](https://outmontclair.org)

**About Out Montclair**
Out Montclair is a nonprofit organization created to provide support and solidarity for the LGBTQIA+ community of Montclair. We offer educational and charitable activities and events to promote inclusivity and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, non-binary and gender-fluid youth and adults. Additionally, we are a safe space where our community and our allies can come together and celebrate who we are. [www.outmontclair.org](http://www.outmontclair.org)

**About Montclair Pride**
The Montclair Pride festival, hosted by Out Montclair, raises awareness and strengthens ties in our community and among all LGBTQ+ people and allies in the region, as well as provides a celebration filled with art, culture, food, music and live performances to uplift LGBTQIA+ people, issues and history. Visit [www.montclairpride.org](http://www.montclairpride.org) to see all the events of the inaugural festival in June 2022.

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