

Kayla Stone performs at a First Thursday event at pear's art gallery a few days after her attack.

formation in the recent attacks to come forward, noting that most of the incidents occurred in heavily populated parts of town, yet police have no witnesses.

Police are currently investigating three possible bias crimes that occurred in the last two months.

The most recent bias incident was the July 3 assault against 21-year-old queer musician and youth activist Kayla Stone.

Stone said she was near SW Third and Burnside between 1 and 2:30 a.m. when she was attacked by a group of black and Latino men and women who had harassed her the night before, calling her a "dyke" and following her for three blocks.

"[The group] saw me and they were like, 'Oh, that's that bitch from last night. We're gonna fuck her ass up,'" Stone recalled. "I wasn't with anybody and I was on Third [Avenue] and they approached me and immediately started beating me."

The only person she remembers clearly is the one who threw the first punch, a Latino man with a teardrop tattoo by his eye.

After the group ran off, Stone made her way to The Escape nightclub where staff



called 911. After reporting the incident to police, Stone was taken to OHSU. She left before she could be evaluated or treated because she was uncomfortable with the doctor and didn't want to minimize her injuries with stitches.

"That," Stone said, pointing to a laceration on her head, "could be stitched up, but I chose not to let that happen, because I felt this time I wasn't going to allow it to be stitched up and stuffed under the covers."

Portland Police spokesperson Sergeant Pete Simpson said that while the lack of details makes for a challenging investigation,

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detectives will be looking into area surveillance footage and trying to find other calls from that night that might corroborate details about the attack.

In the June 25 assault in Old Town against a gay man and the good Samaritan, Andrew Smith, who stepped in to help, police arrested 28-year-old Shawn Siefke and 21-year-old Christian Sanchez-Villavencio. Siefke has been charged with third-degree assault and second-degree intimidation for allegedly using gay slurs in the attack. Sanchez-Villavencio has been charged with third-degree assault.

Police are still looking for witnesses in the May 22 assault near the Hawthorne Bridge against Brad Forkner and Christopher Rosevear, who were walking hand in hand when they were assaulted by three white men in their twenties, about 5-foot-11 or 6-foot tall and medium-to-large build, wearing hooded sweatshirts—blue, white and brown.

Anyone with information on recent bias crimes should contact Detective Kevin Warren at 503-823-3761 or kevin.warren@portlandoregon.gov. Just Out will continue to follow these stories as they develop. To get involved with the "We Are Not Afraid" march, email wearenotafrain2011@gmail.com.

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