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Widow of Daisy Mountain firefighter beaten at strip club wants state to regulate bouncers

Robert Gundran, The Republic | azcentral.com Published 8:13 p.m. MT July 27, 2017 | Updated 8:14 p.m. MT July 27, 2017





Daisy Mountain firefighter dies after Phoenix nightclub assault. Wochit

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The widow of a Daisy Mountain firefighter who police say was beaten to death by a bar employee is asking Arizona lawmakers to pass legislation that regulates bouncers.

"As much as I wish he had come home that night ... what happened to him at Centerfolds should never happen to anybody," Heather Jones said while flanked by nearly 20 of her husband's co-workers and friends.

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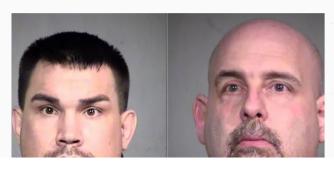
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Luke Jones, 37, died after an assault at Centerfolds

Cabaret, a strip club in west Phoenix.

Doorman Brandon Draper is charged with second-degree murder in his death. The manager, Timothy John Piegari, is charged with hindering prosecution and evidence tampering

Both men have pleaded not guilty.





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Brandon Draper (left) and Timothy Piegari (Photo: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office)

Centerfolds Cabaret agreed in March to surrender its liquor license. Its former owners could not be reached for comment on Thursday.

"Luke's Law, which is not yet in draft form, would make sure something like this doesn't happen in the future," Heather Jones said.

She spoke publicly about her husband's death for the first time Thursday.

"Luke was my best friend," Jones said, sniffling. "He was my everything, and he had just surprised me on our 15th wedding anniversary."

The couple had a young daughter.

"Let's talk about the laws that regulate bouncers in the state of Arizona, and this is a really simple discussion, because there are none," said attorney James Goodnow, who is representing Jones.

Goodnow and his legal partner, Marc Lamber, said security guards must be trained and licensed under the Department of Public Safety, so the same should apply to bouncers.

"Bouncers aren't defined as security guards or police officers. They fall between the cracks " Lamber said

Goodnow said he'd like to see bouncers receive background checks and training in courses developed by experts.



Heather Jones (center), surrounded by firefighters and first responders that knew her husband, talks about her proposal to regulate bouncers in Arizona. (Photo: Robert Gundran/The Republic)

Jones, Goodnow and Lamber have put together an online petition urging Arizona lawmakers to draft and pass legislation that regulates the hiring and training of

"California, New York, Louisiana and countless cities around the country have enacted laws that require training, background checks and other safety measures when it comes to bouncers," Goodnow said. "We do think there are some good laws on the books that would serve as a good roadmap."

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uniformed, undergo a background check and 16 hours of training, according to information on California's Department Consumer Affairs.

Goodnow said he has spoken to a few lawmakers but is still looking for someone to sponsor a bill.

"We're looking to gather signatures, get the attention of lawmakers and, most importantly, save lives," he said.

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