

ABC's *America This Morning*

11/23/22

4:00:29 a.m. [TEASE]

5 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Another Mass Shooting]

RHIANNON ALLY: It comes as we learn new information about the suspected shooter in the Colorado nightclub rampage.

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4:07:02 a.m.

1 minute and 49 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Club Q Suspect's Past]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening Today; Club Q Suspect Due in Court; Family Friend Says Alleged Shooter Was Bullied]

DYMBURT: We have new details this morning about the suspect in that mass shooting at a Colorado nightclub where five people were killed. A family friend says the suspected gunman was bullied and we've learned he also changed his name. The suspect in the massacre at a Colorado Springs nightclub heads to court today as we learned that they identify as non-binary. Court documents show Anderson Lee Aldrich uses they/them pronouns. They are accused of killing five people and wounding several others inside the LGBTQ nightclub.

COLORADO 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT JUDICIAL ATTORNEY MICHAEL ALLEN: If this is in fact a hate crime, then it's important for us to signal to the world that we don't tolerate hate crimes in this community.

DYMBURT: A family friend says the 22 year old was bullied as a teen, which they believe contributed to Aldridge's decision to change names in 2016 months after a website surfaced specifically targeting Aldrich. ABC News viewed an archived copy of the website, which makes vulgar comments about the then-teenager's weight and ABC News has learned Aldrich's grandfather is former California Assemblyman Randy Voepel, who once compared the January 6th riots to the American Revolution and has voted against LGBTQ legislation. It comes as a new poll from GLADD shows 72 percent of transgender people and 48 percent of the LGBTQ community say the political environment makes them fear for their personal safety.

DAVID MCRAE: It's just surreal to think that, LIKE, this happened at a place that we were calling our home bar, you know. Like, A place that was local and tight knit.

BYMURT: Meanwhile, we're learning more about the heroes who stopped the shooter, including Navy sailor Thomas James, who is now in stable condition after subduing the shooter and the

White House says President Biden has now spoken to Richard Fierro, the Army veteran credited with disarming the shooter. A company that analyzes extremist behavior online says since the shooting in Colorado Springs last weekend, there's been a substantial and concerning surge in anti-LGBTQ chatter.