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University of Michigan student who yelled anti-gay slurs at Uber driver responds to viral video



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Editor's note: This video contains profanity and other foul language.

The University of Michigan student who yelled anti-gay slurs at an Uber driver responded Monday to the viral YouTube video of the incident.

In a statement provided through a representative for the family, Jake Croman, a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, accused the Uber driver of making anti-Semitic comments.

"This video shows one side of an argument I had with an Uber driver two weeks ago after he refused to pick me up on the basis of my religion. What you don't see in the video is that the driver had made a number of offensive anti-semitic remarks that provoked my response. I am not proud of my reaction to his discrimination and I regret my choice of words. Shortly after the verbal altercation, I filed a complaint with the Ann Arbor police department and they are now dealing with the issue."

The Ann Arbor News has reached out the police department for more information. The department previously confirmed that at least one report had been filed in the matter.

In the video, posted on YouTube on March 23, a college-aged man can be seen yelling expletives and anti-gay slurs at an Uber driver while surrounded by other young men.

"You're an Uber driver, go f**king drive you little f**k," the man says in the video. "Minimum wage f****t, go f**k yourself."

The driver, Artur Zawada, said in a comment posted on the video over the weekend that he has been harassed by the Uber rider and his friends several times. He said he previously told the man that he was requesting that Uber ban him, but said the student uses friends' accounts.

"For that I was falsely accused, called names etc," he wrote. "4th time... Rider knew from Uber application who is the driver. He had option to cancel to avoid any issues but he/they proceeded to abuse, harrase, belittle and provoke like kindergarten thugs."

The dean of students met with both the Uber driver and the students involved last week, University of Michigan spokesman Rick Fitzgerald said in an email.

He said the university is waiting on the police report ahead of any further steps.

"We find the actions depicted in this video to be reprehensible and completely inconsistent with our community's closely held values," he said. "We expect more from our students. Regardless of the circumstances, no one deserves to be treated that way."

The national fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon said in a statement that they are investigating the incident and could expel the student from membership if they deem it appropriate.

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