



2016 Hate and Bias Report

Introduction

The City of Eugene, in alignment with the City Council goal of creating a Safe Community, is committed to working with community partners to reach the vision of creating a community where every person regardless of their identity is safe, valued and welcome. We do this by providing sponsorship for critical community events, partnering to identify proactive campaigns to advance human rights and supporting policies that reflect our collective values. While we understand that it is unlikely that the City can eradicate hate and bias activity completely, we will continue to make strides towards a better future for everyone in Eugene.

One strategy we continue to use to address Hate and Bias is to plan for the community we are becoming and want to be. There are several projects that took place in 2016 that highlight this work. The Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) partnered with Parks and Open Spaces to identify strategies to support Latino communities feel more welcome in parks and public spaces as part of the Parks System Plan. HRNI is committed to meeting the needs of the community by preserving history, providing educational opportunities and supporting outreach to marginalized communities. HRNI supported community education through a collaboration with schools to address equity, racism and homelessness through the Stories of Inclusion panels and panel discussions. HRNI provided staff support to the Human Rights Commission's Anti-Discrimination Work Group which held focus groups with communities of color, LGBTQ communities and Muslim communities in order to better understand the experiences marginalized people living in Eugene and to share information with community members about how to report hate and bias activity. They will create a report on the experiences of these communities and plan to share their findings and recommendations in fall of 2017.

We recognize that building welcoming communities begins at a local level. HRNI staff started providing hate and bias training at the annual Neighborhood Leaders training, Neighborhood Leaders Council and Neighborhood Associations. These trainings were provided to share tools and resources with local leaders and support neighborhood associations with strategies to proactively address hate and bias.

HRNI and Human Resources have been collaborating to expand opportunities for City of Eugene employees to gain new perspectives through a series of book clubs and TED Talks that include facilitated discussions.

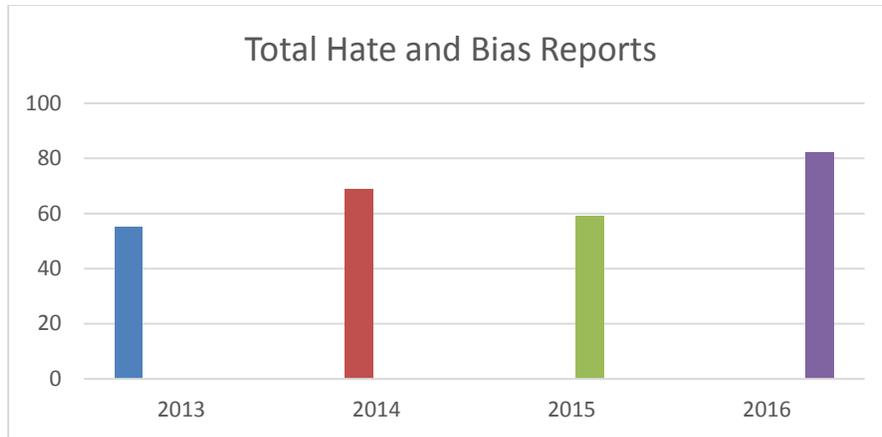
In 2016 some Asian owned businesses experienced incidents of vandalism. HRNI in partnership with the Equity and Community Consortium and community organizations organized lunches showing community support for business owners and encouraging community members to patronize affected businesses.

In accordance with the City of Eugene's Hate and Bias Incident Response Planⁱ HRNI provides victim and community support for both bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents, along with tracking and reporting of hate activity. Hate and bias activities are reported to the HRNI in a variety of ways, including victim or witness initiated contact, referral from community agencies, and referral from other City departments such as the Eugene Police Department (EPD).

Bias crimes can include all classes of crime motivated by prejudice based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In addition to statutory reporting of state and federally classified hate crimes, EPD also tracks bias-related crimes motivated by perceived or actual age, economic status, social status, citizenship, marital status, or political affiliation or beliefs, membership or activity in or on behalf of a labor organization or against a labor organization to better understand and gauge community trends.

This is the fifth annual report focusing on hate and bias incidents and response which has been compiled through a partnership between HRNI and EPD. The data collection methodology and format of reporting has been replicated consistently since the 2012 report which serves as a baseline for evaluation of hate and bias activity.

This report covers January through December of 2016. In total there were 82 hate crimes and non-criminal incidents reported in 2016. According to the Department of Justice's Hate Crime Victimization Report from 2010 it was estimated nationallyⁱⁱ that between 25-42% of hate crimes were reported to police. Given this information, it is probable that the incidents reported in Eugene represent only a small percentage of the actual activity occurring.



Non-Criminal Bias Incidents

There are many behaviors and attitudes that, while not criminal, have a detrimental impact on our community. Often, the non-criminal incidents reported to HRNI fall under the protections of free speech. HRNI staff in cooperation with the Human Rights Commission and community allies provide support and engage in the important work of tracking and making visible this type of activity even when it's not legally required. The goal is to project a clear message that hatred and bigotry are not acceptable, to act in solidarity with impacted communities, and to increase safety and inclusivity in Eugene.

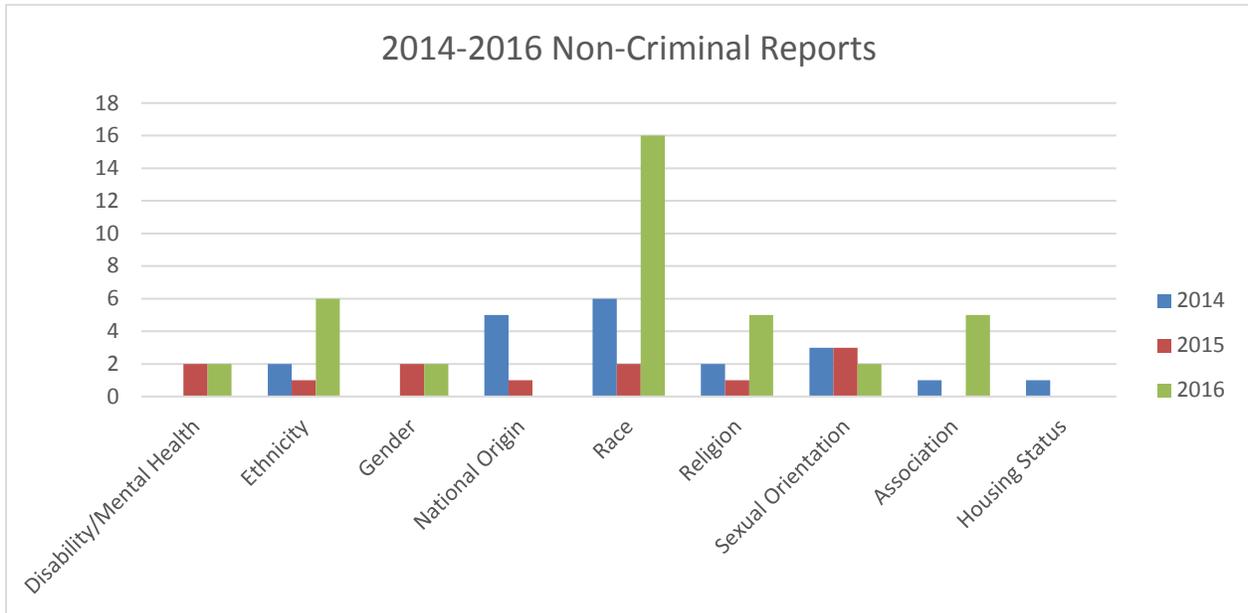
2016 Non-Criminal Reports Totalⁱⁱⁱ	38
Race	16
Ethnicity	6
Religion	5
Association	5
Sexual Orientation	2
Gender	2
Disability/Mental Health	2

There were a total of 38 non-criminal bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2016. Some of the reports made to HRNI may have been criminal in nature however, the victims or witnesses chose not to file police reports and these reports have been captured in the non-criminal numbers.

Race replaced sexual orientation as the most frequently reported motivating factor for non-criminal bias incidents in 2016. This represents an increase from 2015. In 2016, there were five incidents reported due to political affiliation, six

due to ethnicity and 16 due to race. Of the 16 non-crime incidents due to race, seven targeted African Americans.

For the sake of comparison, there were a total of 10 non-criminal bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2015. Reported activity motivated by race in 2016 was higher than 2015 reports. It's possible that an increase in non-criminal hate and bias incidents was due to increased understanding of how to report incidents to HRNI and/or that there were an increase of incidents due to the political climate.

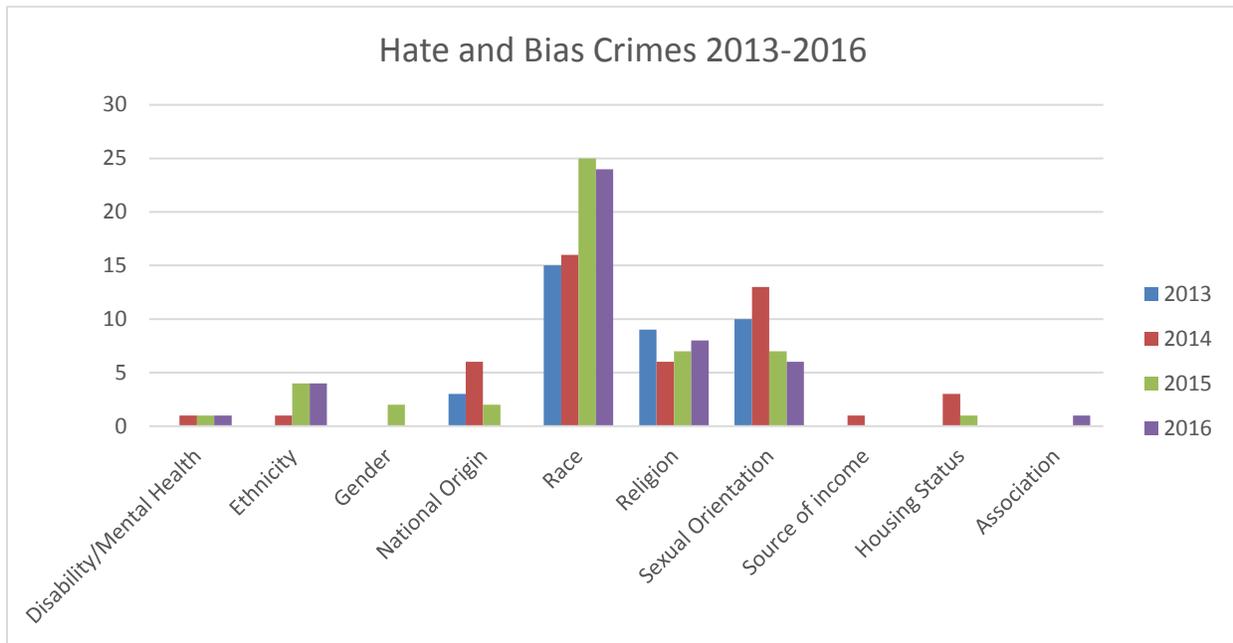


Bias Crimes

During 2016, 44 hate crimes were reported to EPD. In a number of these cases more than one criminal charge was associated with a single event. For the purposes of this table the event as a whole has been counted as opposed to individual charges. By comparison there were 46 hate crimes reported to EPD in 2015 and 47 in 2014. Arrests were made in 17 cases, 3 remain open, and 26 were suspended or inactive with no more leads. Of the charges cleared by arrest, 13 were motivated by race and 4 by ethnicity.

2016 Criminal Reports Total^{iv}	44
Race	24
Religion	8
Sexual Orientation	6
Ethnicity	4
Association	1
Disability	1

Consistent with the previous three years, race continues to be the leading factor in hate and bias crimes experienced in Eugene. EPD reported 24 hate crimes related to race in 2016, 25 in 2015 and 16 in 2014. African Americans in Eugene continue to be dramatically over represented in experiencing hate and bias crimes. Of the 24 reported hate crimes, 15 were committed against African American community members. EPD also reported a small increase of incidents related to religion.



Intimidation 2^v remains the most common hate crime charge, accounting for 36% of the charges. Often when language or activity goes beyond the protections of free speech it becomes criminal intimidation. A notable increase of vandalism related charges was prevalent in 2016, accounting for 40% of hate crime charges, These charges were categorized under Criminal Mischief 1, 2 and 3, as well as Intimidation 2.

In 2016, there were a number of Asian-owned businesses that experienced vandalism. These are captured in the total racially motivated hate and bias crimes. While the crimes were later determined to be targeted based on geographic location and investigations did not show that the incidents were racially motivated, the data remains in the report because the community experienced these crimes as hate and bias, and thus they have been recorded as such.

There were 10 incidents involving physical violence in 2016, by comparison there were 17 incidents in 2015. These assaults targeted three people based on their ethnicity, three people based on their sexual orientation, one based on their gender identity, one person based on their political affiliation and two people based on their race. Of the two targeted because of their race, both of the victims were African American. Of the three based on ethnicity, all were Latino.

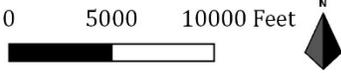
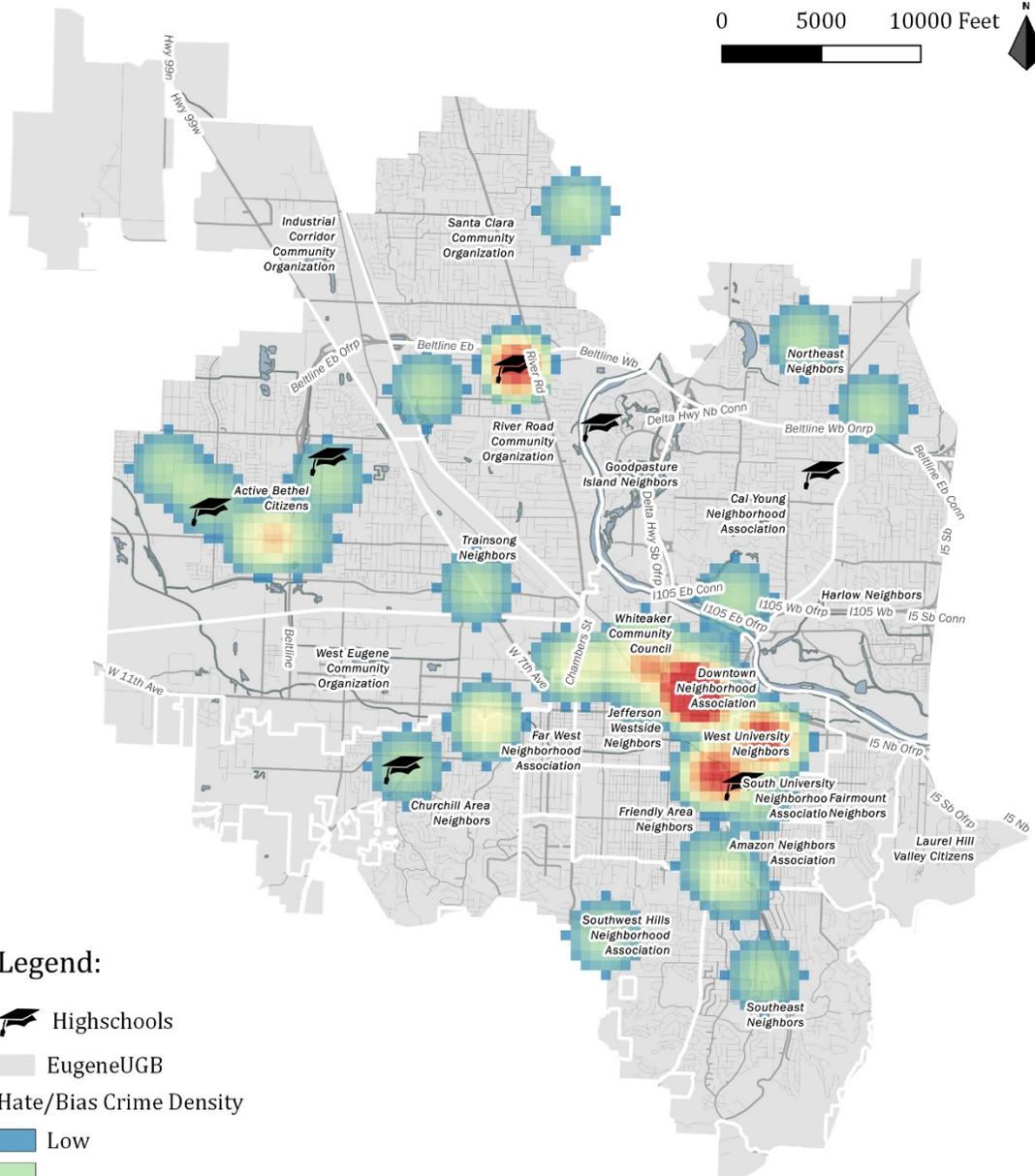
School Resource Officers aided in reporting and responding to eight hate and bias crimes that occurred in schools. The majority of this activity involved vandalism and graffiti, although two incidents included the charges of Harassment and Disorderly Conduct via social media and were cleared by arrest.

Additionally, there were nine criminal reports filed of swastikas. Of the nine crimes, five were located on school property, two were in parks, one was at a gymnastics facility and one in an apartment parking lot. In 2016, there was an increase in criminal incidents swastikas being reported in the community. Depending on additional words or symbols included in the graffiti, the crimes may have been classified under race, religion and ethnicity.

Geographic Distribution

Consistent with previous years, hate and bias activity was reported throughout Eugene, leaving most neighborhoods affected by at least one incident. The Downtown and West University neighborhoods continued to experience the highest concentration of reported activity, although there was an increase of non-criminal incidents in the Whiteaker Neighborhood in 2016.

Hate and Bias Crime Density in 2016



Legend:

 Highschools

 EugeneUGB

Hate/Bias Crime Density

 Low



 Medium



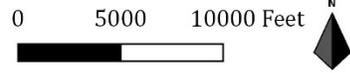
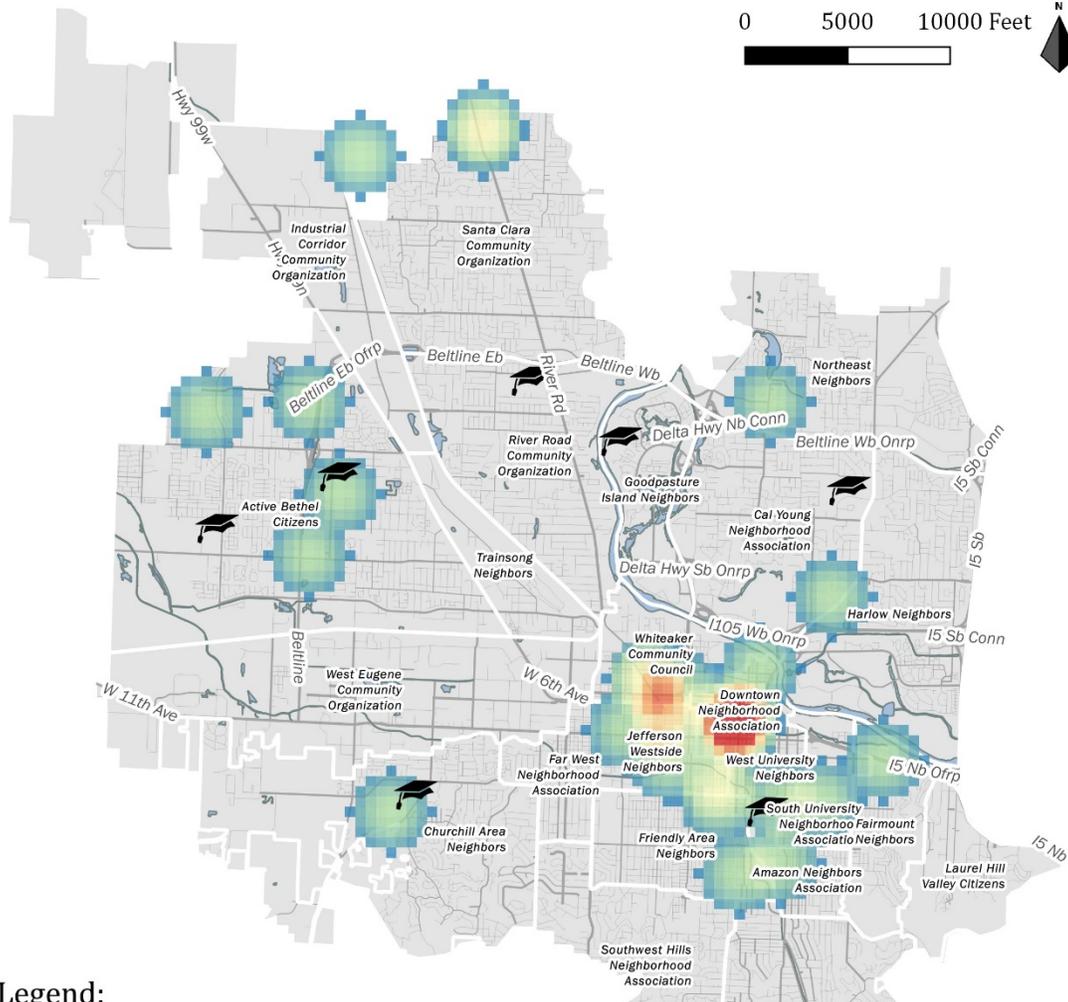
 High

Caution: This map is based on source data subject to change and is for general reference only.

City of Eugene
Police Department
Crime Analysis Unit
May 12, 2017



Hate and Bias Non-Crime Density in 2016



Legend:

 Highschools (public/private)

 Eugene UGB

Hate/Bias Crime Density

 Low



 Medium



 High

Caution: This map is based on source data subject to change and is for general reference only.

City of Eugene
Police Department
Crime Analysis Unit
June 22, 2017



Response

The City responds to hate and bias activity in a variety of ways including nationally recognized best practices. The response is victim directed and protects victim confidentiality when requested. Various people provide support depending on the circumstances and the expressed wishes of the victim. HRNI, EPD, the Human Rights Commission, and community organizations regularly collaborate on response in the form of providing the individuals with referrals, supporting the writing of Op-Ed articles and letters to the editor, hate free zone leafleting, alerts in neighborhood association newsletters and social media sites, assistance connecting victims with the media, and criminal investigation where warranted.

Conclusion and Next Steps

It is critical to recognize that communities of color, especially African Americans, were significantly impacted by hate and bias activity in 2016. Race was the motivating factor in 54% of all reported hate crimes and 42% of all reported non-criminal bias incidents. Crimes reported based on race decreased by one crime from 2015 to 2016, although still much higher than reported in 2013 with 15 reported hate crimes.

For the second year in a row, crimes were reported based on actual or perceived housing status. Homelessness is not a protected class at the local, state or federal level. However, the State of Oregon requires that law enforcement track, investigate and report crimes targeting people because of their actual or perceived socio-economic status. In an effort to paint the clearest picture of what is happening in Eugene, hate and bias crimes related to homelessness are captured under housing status in this report. People experiencing homelessness across the United States are increasingly becoming victims of to hate and bias crimes. In 2013 it was reported that attacks against homeless people increased by 23.8% from the previous year^{vi}. We are mindful of this national trend and in turn are actively tracking hate and bias crimes against homeless people in Eugene.

Analyzing the data geographically can help direct resources more efficiently. Continued, targeted response in 2016 has involved close coordination between City staff, community leaders in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, community agencies, and the Human Rights Commission. In cases where there has been repeated activity in the same location, EPD has also assisted victims in improving their safety through proactive measures.

It is likely that criminal and non-criminal hate and bias incidents will continue to be underreported. Improving understanding of how to report and a sense of safety in the community to report hate and bias activity, both through EPD and HRNI is essential to improving the community experience. It is also critical to continue the ongoing training of police officers in the proper identification and documentation of hate crimes.

For Eugene to be truly safe, vibrant, and welcoming for all it is essential to continue to provide support to victims of bias activity and to develop and implement strategies to reduce this activity and the underlying attitudes that perpetuate it. In the coming year we will focus on making existing proactive programs and coordinated responses more robust and effective. These actions will allow us to grow closer to the community we strive to be. To achieve this it will be important to create an environment where it is understood that bias activity is not welcome and directly undermines the Eugene we all want to live in.

ⁱ <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/536>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4614>

ⁱⁱⁱ Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Bias Activity Log, January – December 2016

^{iv} EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January – December 2016

^v 4.731 Intimidation in the Second Degree

(1) A person commits the crime of intimidation in the second degree if the person:

(a) Tampers or interferes with property, having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, with the intent to cause substantial inconvenience to another because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;

(b) Intentionally subjects another to offensive physical contact because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or

(c) Intentionally, because of the person's perception of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of another or of a member of the other's family, subjects such other person to alarm by threatening:

1. To inflict serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting such other person, or a member of the person's family; or

2. To cause substantial damage to the property of the other person or of a member of the other person's family.

(2) For purposes of this section, "property" means any tangible personal property or real property, and "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

(Section 4.731 added by Ordinance No. 18826, enacted July 13, 1981; amended by Ordinance No. 19462, enacted April 13, 1987, and Ordinance No. 19686, enacted May 14, 1990.)

^{vi} <http://nationalhomeless.org/new-report-hate-crimes-homeless-2013/>