

# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON BIAS INCIDENTS**

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2016 MCP Annual Report on Bias Incidents compiled by the Policy & Planning Division*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Montgomery County is proud to be one of the most diverse and welcoming communities in the nation. So it was especially discouraging to see that the number of hate incidents in 2016 rose 42.4 percent over 2015, with most of the increase coming at the end of the year.

Let me be clear: hate and prejudice have no place in this County. MCPD condemns hateful rhetoric, extremist ideology, and violence against our residents. Every hate crime reported to us is assigned to a detective for a thorough investigation. The Montgomery County Police Department remains committed to upholding the civil and human rights of all people and reducing fear among our residents. We ask all of our residents to report hate crimes.



Because of our County's respect for diversity and the Department's commitment to engaging every segment of our community, these acts of hate violence have served to strengthen our interfaith dialogues, foster tolerance, and increase understanding among our residents. What was meant to harm, has resulted in increasing unity. That is the strength of Montgomery County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Thomas Manger". Below the signature, the text "J. Thomas Manger" and "Chief of Police" is printed in a small, sans-serif font.

J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police

## HATE CRIME STATISTICS ACT

*AS AMENDED, 28 U.S.C §534*

§ “[Sec. 1.] (a) This Act may be cited as the ‘Hate Crime Statistics Act’.

### Defining a Hate Crime

For the purposes of collecting statistics, Congress has defined a hate crime as a “committed criminal offense that is motivated in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias(es) against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.” Hate itself is not a crime—and the FBI is mindful of protecting freedom of speech and other civil liberties. Retrieved from [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

“(b) (1) Under the authority of section 534 of title 28, United States Code, the Attorney General shall acquire data, for each calendar year, about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, including where appropriate the crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation; arson; and destruction, damage or vandalism of property.

“(2) The Attorney General shall establish guidelines for the collection of such data including the necessary evidence and criteria that must be

present for a finding of manifest prejudice and procedures for carrying out the purposes of this section.

“(3) Nothing in this section creates a cause of action or a right to bring an action, including an action based on discrimination due to sexual orientation. As used in this section, the term ‘sexual orientation’ means consensual homosexuality or heterosexuality. This subsection does not limit any existing cause of action or right to bring an action, including any action under the Administrative Procedure Act or the All Writs Act [5 U.S.C.S. §§ 551 et seq. or 28 U.S.C.S. § 1651].

“(4) Data acquired under this section shall be used only for research or statistical purposes and may not contain any information that may reveal the identity of an individual victim of a crime.

“(5) The Attorney General shall publish an annual summary of the data acquired under this section, including data about crimes committed by, and crimes directed against, juveniles.

“(c) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section through fiscal year 2002.

“Sec. 2. (a) Congress finds that—

“(1) the American family life is the foundation of American Society,

“(2) Federal policy should encourage the well-being, financial security, and health of the American family,

“(3) schools should not de-emphasize the critical value of American family life.

### Matthew Shepard & James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (18 U.S.C. § 249)

This statute gives the FBI authority to investigate violent hate crimes, including violence directed at gay, lesbian, bisexual, and the transgender community.

“(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed, nor shall any funds appropriated to carry out the purpose of the Act be used, to promote or encourage homosexuality.”

## HISTORY

In 1990, Congress passed the *Hate Crime Statistics Act* and as a result, the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program created a hate crime data collection system to comply with this mandate. Lawmakers amended the *Hate Crime Statistics Act* with the *Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994* to include bias against persons with disabilities. Finally, in 2009, Congress passed the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009* and the UCR program expanded its data collection categories for race and ethnicity, and began accepting data on crimes motivated by gender and gender identity bias in 2013. The Montgomery County Police Department voluntarily reports statistics to this program, through the state reporting process.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

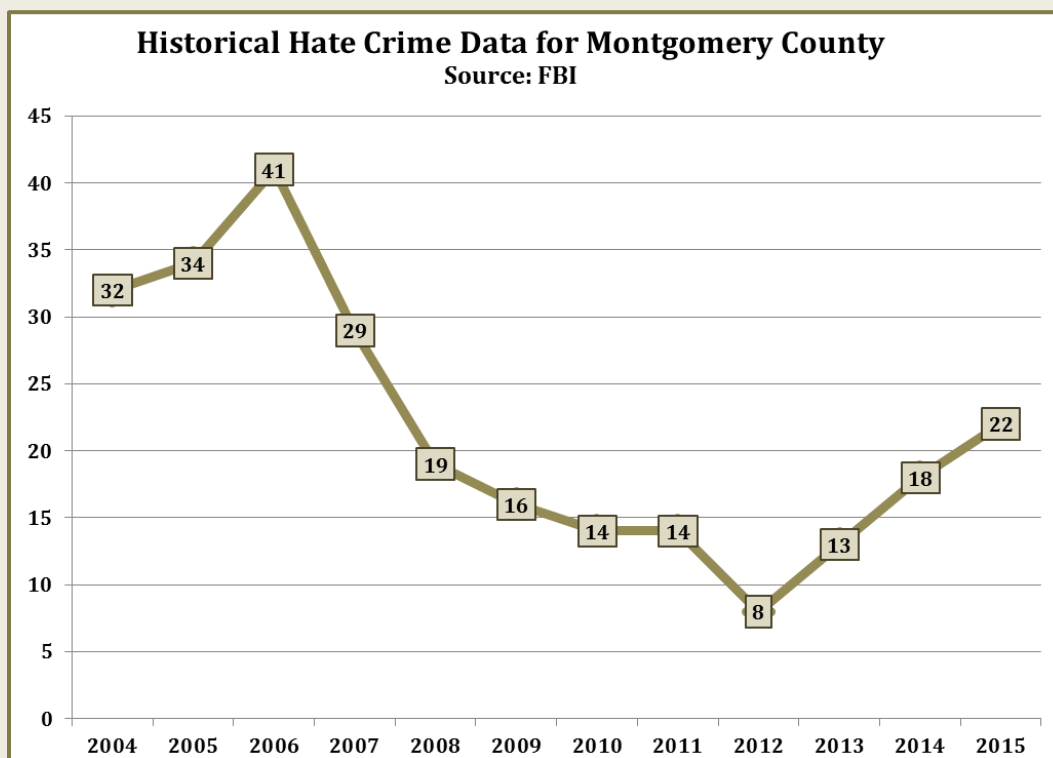
The Montgomery County Police Department's *Annual Report on Bias Incidents* is a report that provides statistical data about all of the incidents and criminal offenses that are motivated by the offender's bias against a race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In the state of Maryland, Public Safety Article §2-307 adds *homelessness* to the list of protected classes, and tasks all law enforcement agencies in the state to provide the Maryland State Police (MSP) with information related to bias-motivated incidents.

The Montgomery County Police Department voluntarily reports offense data through the Maryland Statewide Uniform Crime Reporting Program to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program's *Hate Crime Statistics* program. Hate crimes are not separate, distinct crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender's bias. Under the FBI UCR program, hate crime reporting is applicable to the following offenses: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, simple assault, intimidation, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, and human trafficking (commercial sex acts and involuntary servitude).

The mere fact the offender is biased against the victim does not mean that a hate crime occurred. Rather, the offender's **criminal** act must have been motivated, in whole or in part, by his or her bias against a race, ethnicity, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or homelessness. Motivation is subjective; therefore, in most incidents, it is difficult to know with any degree of certainty whether a crime was the result of an offender's bias. The comments and/or actions of an offender (if known) are the most significant factors in determining whether an incident is motivated by bias or hate.

The Montgomery County Police Department recognizes the impact that bias and hate may have on an individual, or on a community, as a whole, and records all incidents in which bias is present. In 2016, the department recorded 98 bias incidents, an increase from the 66 reported in 2015 (four of the 2016 incidents were later determined to be unfounded). The state and federal governments track and report these incidents differently. As a result, the number of events documented by the department is generally higher than those reported at the state and federal level. The following

chart<sup>1</sup> illustrates the FBI's reporting of hate crimes occurring in Montgomery County. It is important to note that the FBI does not track incidents of bias, unless they constitute an actual hate crime.



While many incidents of bias may not constitute criminal acts, the MCPD understands that acts demonstrating and/or depicting bias may lead to criminal acts and may have a profound impact upon the community. Chief Manger issued a [video message](#) in 2016, stating the department takes all acts of hate/bias seriously and stressed the importance of reporting any incident that appears to be motivated by bias.

Due to differences in reporting at the local, state, and federal levels, illustrated above, and changes that have been made internally, there is little comparative data available and readers are cautioned against making simplistic comparisons between multiple years, or data and/or other reports from different agencies that might utilize different reporting methodologies. Furthermore, many bias incidents go unreported due to fear or embarrassment, making it difficult to accurately track incidents and establish trends.

Residents in Montgomery County are encouraged to report all incidents (including non-criminal events) that may single out someone because of that person's perceived race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, or homelessness. This will give the department the opportunity to quantify resource needs and direct resources to areas where they will be most

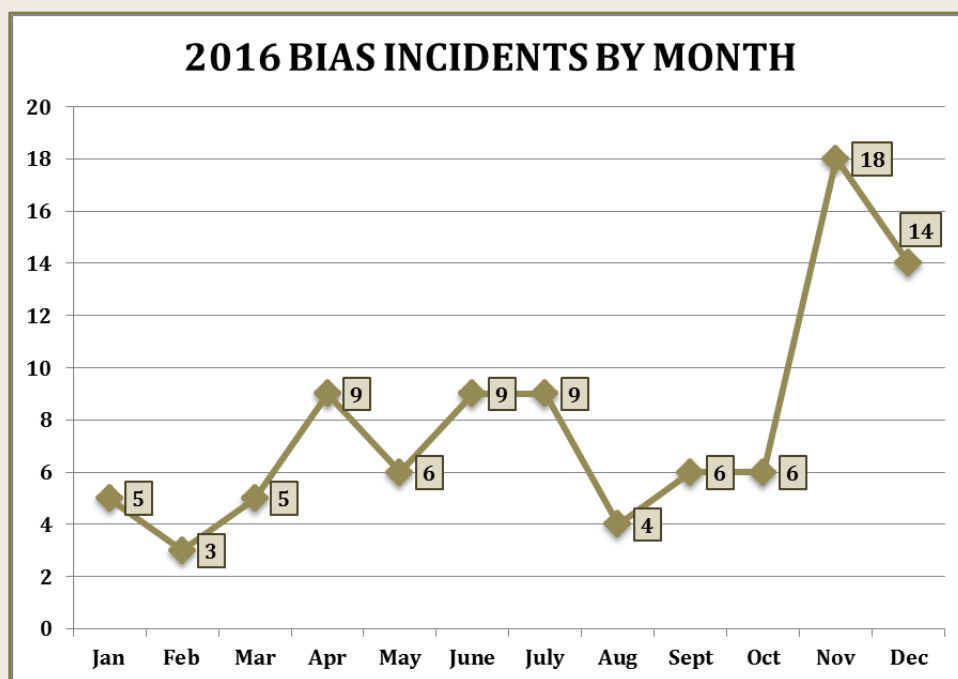
<sup>1</sup> Statistics compiled from the [FBI UCR Hate Crime website](#).

effective. Likewise, other community organizations will be better able to respond to the needs of victims.

## REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS

There were 94 reported bias incidents in 2016<sup>2</sup>, an increase of 42.4% over the number of bias incidents reported in 2015 (66)<sup>3</sup>. Thirty-four percent of the incidents reported in 2016 occurred in November and December, following a political season that seemed to embolden people in the way they expressed themselves, and prompted the Maryland Attorney General to set up a hotline in mid-November for people to report bias crimes.

The volume of bias incidents in November and December represented a 167% increase in the number of reported bias incidents compared to the same time the previous year. In 2015, there were only 12 total reported incidents in November and December combined; seven of the 12 were vandalism incidents. In November and December 2016, there were 19 reported vandalism incidents, which accounted for 59% of the total incidents recorded over the last two months of the year. Nine of these occurred in a school or college.



Although the United States Census Bureau has not yet published updated demographic information for Montgomery County in 2017, it is well-known that Montgomery County is a majority minority community, and the residents are proud that the population continues to increase and become more diverse. In 2016, there were more than 1.04 million people living in Montgomery County. The

<sup>2</sup> The official number reported does not include the four incidents that were determined to be unfounded during the course of investigation.

<sup>3</sup> The 2015 Annual Report on Bias Incidents cited 63 incidents in 2015. However, that number has been adjusted to 66 for three cases that were not originally captured.



following characteristics define the community, according to the Census Bureau<sup>4</sup>:

- 23.4% of persons are under the age of 18. Persons 65 years of age or older make up 14.1% of the community.
- 54.3% of persons are of a non-white race (African-American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, etc.)
- And according to another source, nearly 41% of Montgomery County's population identifies as religious<sup>5</sup> (affiliated with a religion). Approximately 20% identify with a Christian faith; an additional 14% are Catholic; 3.1% are Jewish; 1.3% are Latter Day Saints; 1.3% are an eastern faith; and 1.3% affiliates with Islam.

## **BIAS MOTIVATION**

Of the 94 total bias incidents that were recorded in 2016, religion continued to be the primary bias motivator (38 incidents), followed by race (34 incidents), and ethnicity (12 incidents). Sexual orientation and gender had six and four incidents, respectively. This is consistent with trends from the last several years in Montgomery County, but is slightly different than trends at the national level, where race/ethnicity motivated 59.2% of single-bias incidents in 2015, while religious bias was a factor in only 19.7%.<sup>6</sup>

Within these categories, the following points should be considered:

- Of the 38 incidents motivated by bias towards religion, 84% (32) were considered anti-Jewish, despite Jewish persons making up only 3.1% of the population.
- Of the 34 incidents motivated by bias towards a race, 59% (20) were considered anti-black. There were also eight multi-racial incidents (five of which were vandalism) in which references to the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist groups were discovered.
- Of the 12 incidents motivated by ethnicity bias, nine were anti-Hispanic and three were anti-other ethnicity.

## **TYPES OF BIAS INCIDENTS**

For statistical purposes, bias incidents are classified into five separate categories that are separate and distinct from offense classifications. Nearly 43% percent of the reported bias incidents fall into the category of vandalism/graffiti (40 incidents). This figure has declined slightly as a percentage of the whole; in 2015, 47% of the incidents involved vandalism. The most frequent type of vandalism/graffiti reported is the swastika, identified in more than half of the vandalism cases in 2016. Generally, the swastikas are reported in locations such as public restrooms, public recreation areas, and sometimes even on the department's speed cameras. It is often very difficult to identify

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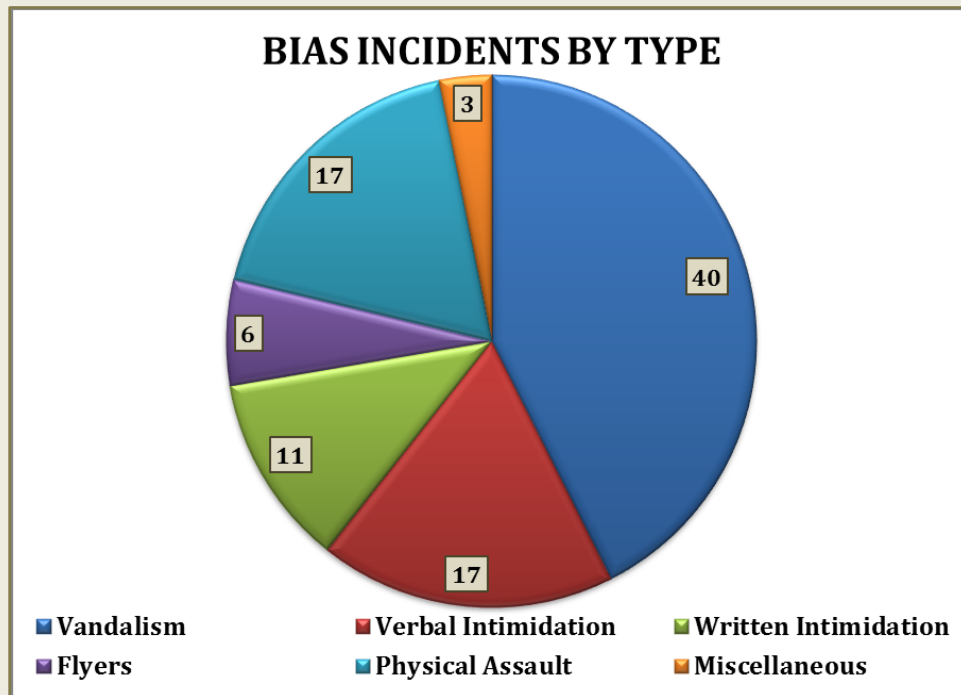
<sup>4</sup> Data retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/BZA210214/24031>

<sup>5</sup> Data retrieved from <http://www.bestplaces.net/religion/county/maryland/montgomery>

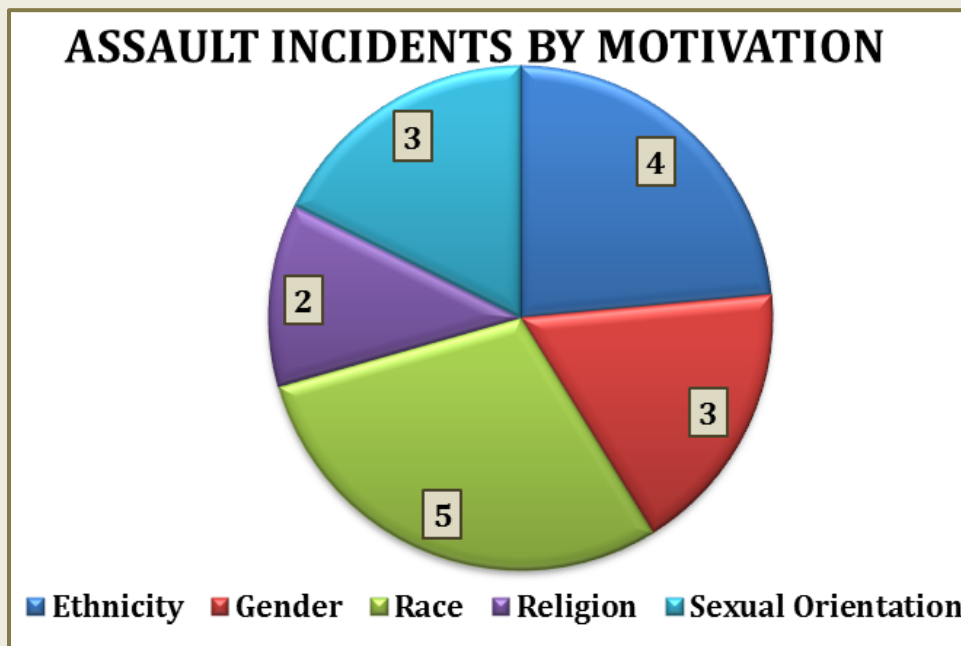
<sup>6</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2016). 2015 Hate Crime Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2015-hate-crime-statistics-released>. FBI statistics from 2016 will not be available until the fall of 2017.



suspects in these cases. In 2016, 45% of all the vandalism incidents were reported at a school or a college and frequently involved the drawing of swastikas.

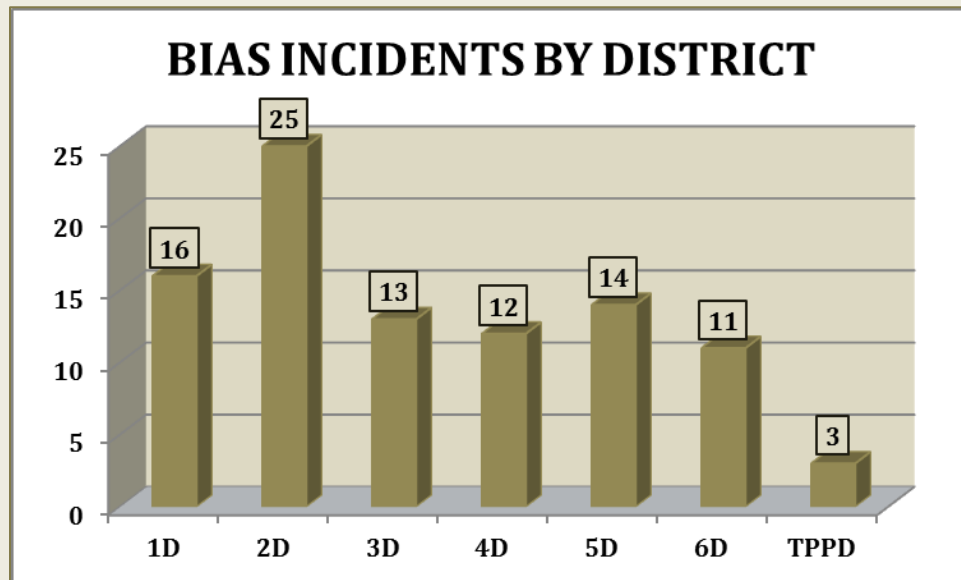


Eighteen percent of the total bias incidents in 2016 were classified as an assault, a category that has been increasing for the last several years. There were only seven assaults in 2013 and 2014 combined. In 2015, eight assaults occurred, resulting in 10 victims. In 2016, the number of bias-motivated assaults doubled to 17 incidents, resulting in 26 victims. The table below graphically depicts the motivation behind each of the assault incidents reported in 2016.



## INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

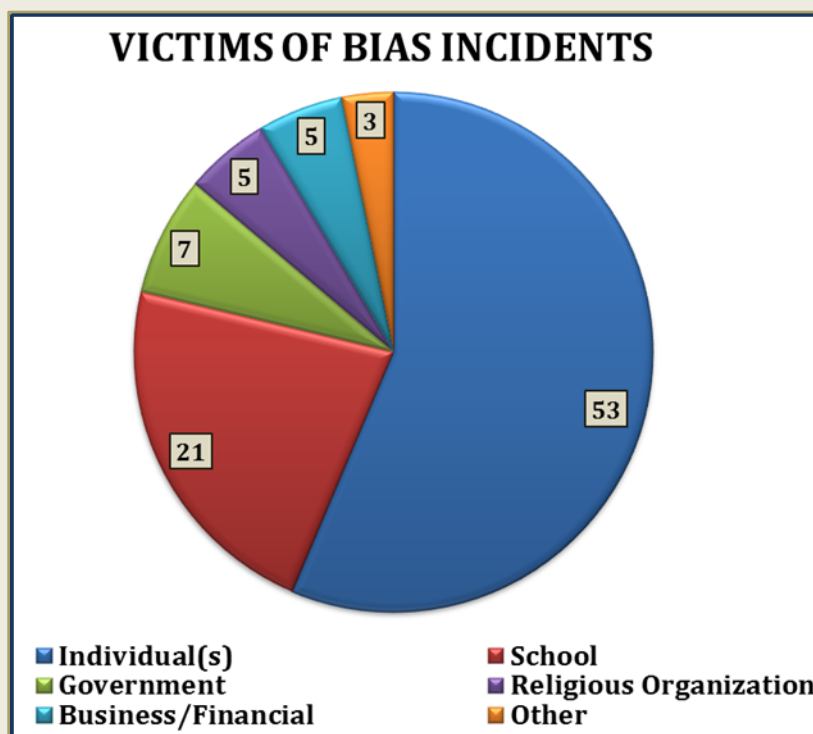
In 2016, 27% of the total bias incidents occurred in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (25). The 1<sup>st</sup> District recorded 16 incidents, and the remaining districts had similar numbers. Three incidents were also recorded in Takoma Park. Again, these figures are consistent with previous years, with most bias incidents occurring in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Districts.



*MCPD CSO Janney celebrates the Chinese New Year with residents of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.*

## VICTIMS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

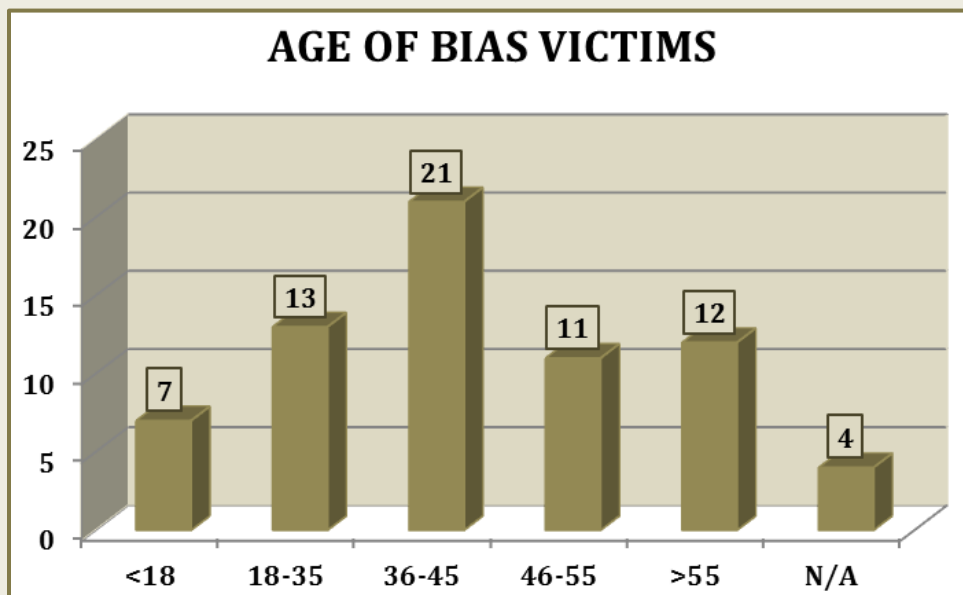
Of the 94 incidents committed in 2016, there were 53 incidents that were committed against individuals (56.4%); 11 of those incidents had multiple victims. Overall, there were 68 individual victims of bias incidents in 2016. The remaining incidents were committed against society: religious organizations, schools/ colleges, government entities, financial organizations, or something else (e.g., public benches, a park, etc.). These trends are consistent with trends reported to the FBI in 2015.



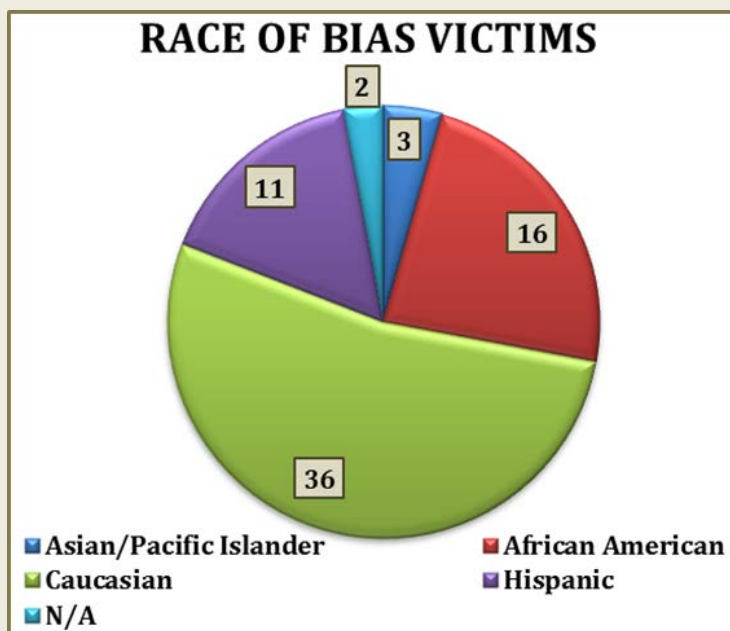
*MCPD 4<sup>th</sup> District officers conduct outreach with students at Shriver Elementary School.*

Of note is the number of incidents in which a school or a college was the target of a bias incident, generally vandalism. There were 21 incidents in 2016 involving a school (6 incidents at elementary schools; 2 incidents at middle schools; 11 incidents at high schools and 2 incidents at Montgomery College). *Note: this figure does not include those incidents that may have occurred at a school and name a victim (i.e., intimidation).*

Amongst those cases in which specific individuals were victims (68 victims, total), there were 35 female victims and 32 male victims (note: one report did not contain any demographic information for the victim). Thirty-one percent of the victims fell in the category between the ages of 36 to 45. Thirty-four percent of the victims were over the age of 46.



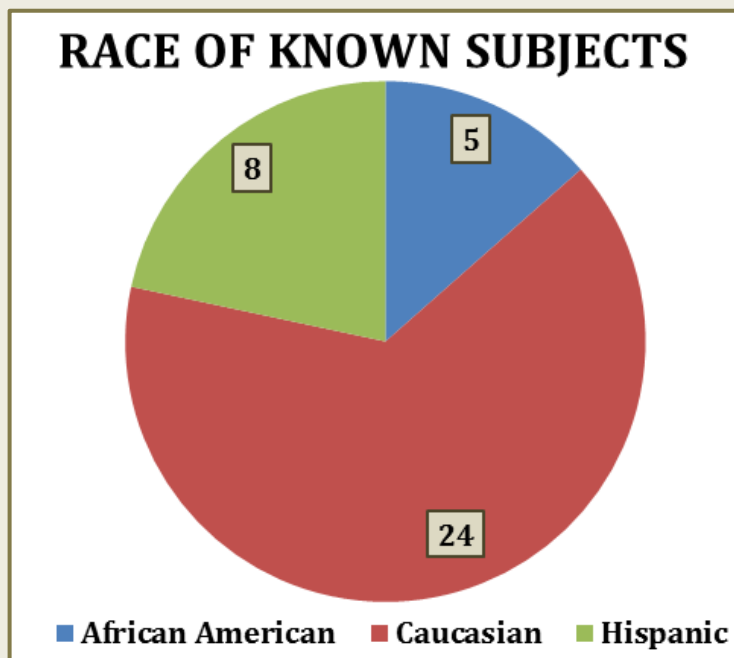
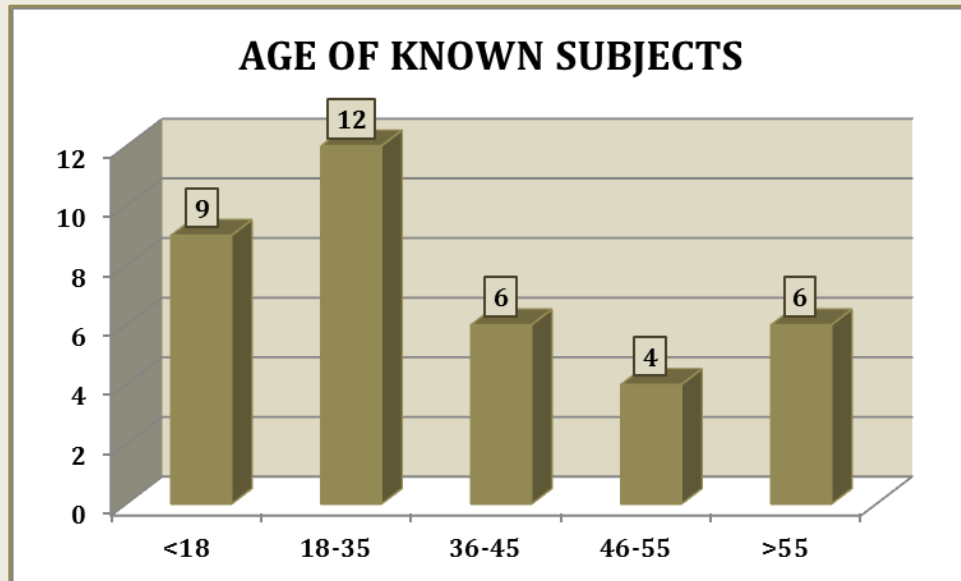
Similar to last year, more than half of the victims of bias-motivated incidents identify as Caucasian (52.9%), 23.5% as African American, and 16.2% as Hispanic. The number of African American victims, as a whole, has declined slightly since last year, while all of the other categories have increased.



*Note: Jewish victims are included in the Caucasian category.*

## OFFENDERS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

It is often very difficult to identify suspects, as many bias incidents occur without any witnesses present. Moreover, many bias incidents occur without the victim present, as in the case of bias motivated graffiti or vandalism. In 2016, victims were able to provide suspect information in nearly 32% of the 94 incidents (30), most of which were for bias-motivated assaults (13) and verbal intimidation (12). **There were 37 subjects developed and/or identified in these 30 incidents.** Nineteen arrests were made for 16 of these cases. A demographic profile of the 37 subjects is presented in the next two charts.



Among known subjects, the dominant offender group is males (30 of the 37 known subjects were males). Nine of the subjects were under the age of 18; five of these nine subjects were involved in incidents of vandalism; three were written intimidation; and one was an assault against a classmate. The majority of the known subjects involved in these bias incidents fell in the category of 18 to 35 years old. Twenty-four of the 37 subjects identified as Caucasian.



## TRAINING & OUTREACH

Improvements continue to be made in the department's records management system and business intelligence and analytics tools, as well as policies and procedures, which now allow the department to capture and track any incident in which there was some element of bias present. Using these new tools, the department can ensure more accurate reporting of all bias-related incidents, which may not be considered hate/bias crimes according to the FBI because they lack some element(s) of a hate crime as defined by the *Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990*, but exhibit some element of bias nonetheless.

Montgomery County police officers receive training specific to investigating suspected hate crimes, including the criteria for determining whether a hate crime has occurred, and responding to the needs of a victim of a hate crime. Police officers frequently receive instruction during in-service training on the concept of bias-based policing, a term used to describe any stop, detention, search or arrest based solely on a person's race, national origin, citizenship, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation. In-service training may also cover diversity and cultural sensitivity.

Bias crimes are more likely to create or exacerbate tension or conflict in a community, so it is important for the police department to work closely within the community to confront hatred and overcome the fear and mistrust that may exist. Communication and interaction is often a key factor in preventing tension or restoring peace. Every interaction with the public is an opportunity to build relationships and trust with the community. Executive staff and the community services officers at each district frequently attend training and meet with community members, and present on the subject of bias incidents to schools and other community organizations, as requested. Furthermore, in 2016, the MCPD renewed its commitment to community service and policing by reforming the Community Engagement Division, which will oversee the community service officers and school resource officers, ensuring that investigative follow-up, victim assistance (when applicable), and collaboration is provided in bias-motivated events immediately, to mitigate the effects of bias and hate on the community. Since July 1, 2016, the MCPD has held 156 events with community groups that could potentially be victims of a bias-motivated incident, or may already be concerned or in fear as a result of national and worldwide events (i.e., LGBTQ representatives, African American and Hispanic committees, faith communities, etc.).



*MCPD 3<sup>rd</sup> District Community Services Officers meet with women at the Washington Area Islamic Center.*

The department's Public Information Office also plays an important role in preventing an increase in tension throughout the community by informing public attitudes about such incidents, the offenders, and the law enforcement response. Timely and accurate reporting significantly increases the likelihood that peace, stability, and understanding will be restored, and fear, suspicion, and anger will be alleviated.

While the Montgomery County Police Department continues to engage political, business, civic, religious, and other community organizations to create a positive climate and encourage constructive dialogue, the [Montgomery County Office of Human Rights](#) continues to promote trust and inclusiveness amongst minority communities.



*Mr. James Stowe, Director of Montgomery County's Office of Human Rights at the Town Hall in December 2016.*

Montgomery County is a diverse, yet inclusive community that does not tolerate hatred. Throughout the county, efforts are made to educate and engage the community in matters that foster understanding while repudiating ignorance. For example, on November 20, 2016, hundreds of Montgomery County residents converged for a rally to affirm the county's identity as a place that welcomes diversity and shows respect for all, at a time when national headlines resonated with stories of hate and division that were occurring. Earlier in the year, students at Stedwick Elementary School in Gaithersburg created a [video project](#) called "The Lie", which went viral. In the video, students share stories about negative things they have heard about their race, gender, or religion, in order to foster a more accepting environment in a county as diverse as Montgomery.

The [Faith Community Advisory Council](#) continued to promote events throughout 2016 that brought people together across ethnic, racial, and faith lines to learn from one another, and created new opportunities for "crossing the bridge from separation to communication, and a cherished sense of community."<sup>7</sup>

The collaborative effort in Montgomery County between the World Organization for Resource Development and Education (WORDE), the Interfaith Community Working Group, and the Montgomery County Police Department, which fosters relationships between Muslim and non-Muslim communities and trains local community members how to recognize potential threats continues to receive national attention. This type of program focuses on building trusting relationships between the government and the communities they serve, training practitioners and community members on radicalization, countering the narratives of violent extremism, providing a deflection or diversion application to redirect individuals at-risk or engaged in the radicalization

<sup>7</sup> Rev. Mansfield "Kasey" Kaseman. 2016. [Letter from the Interfaith Community Liaison](#).



process, and providing an intervention element to assist individuals who may be at risk for radicalization. Montgomery County's program, now known as *Building Resistance to Violent Extremism* (BRAVE), is considered to be at the forefront of national efforts and is expanding to other jurisdictions.

Many opportunities remain to combat bias and stereotypes that lead to bias incidents, and to build trust amongst the diverse residents of Montgomery County. In an article<sup>8</sup> published in December, Chief Manger stressed the need for people to report incidents of bias and supported the following strategy if you witness something that appears to be a bias-based incident: 1) Be a good witness; record and identify the incident. 2) Be prepared to speak out, but don't escalate the conflict. 3) Be an ally. 4) Find a safe space. 5) Learn more.

## SUMMARY

Bias incidents may have a disproportionately greater impact upon their victims than other types of incidents. Furthermore, these types of incidents also have more serious side effects for society, as a whole. A bias incident not only victimizes the individual, but also the entire group the individual belongs to, resulting in increased isolation, stress, and vulnerability of that group. A timely and effective police response can have a very positive and lasting impact on the relationship between the police and various communities, which can also influence other aspects of public safety.

If you believe a bias/hate crime has occurred, please call 301-279-8000, or dial 9-1-1 in an emergency, to report the incident to the MCPD immediately. The Montgomery County Office of Human Rights can also be contacted at 240-777-8450, even if you do not have any information on the suspects, or there is no physical injury or property damage. Do not destroy any evidence related to the crime; keep any letters, emails, or voicemails. Do not clean up any vandalism until the police arrive and conduct the investigation, which may also include photographs. The department's Victim Assistance Coordinators, available at each district station, can direct you to other resources and put you in contact with human rights organizations. If you would like more information about how you can prevent bias incidents, please consider contacting the commander of the [Community Engagement Division](#), who will be able to coordinate the department's community services resources, or direct you to the most appropriate resource for your need.

### Montgomery County Police Department District Stations

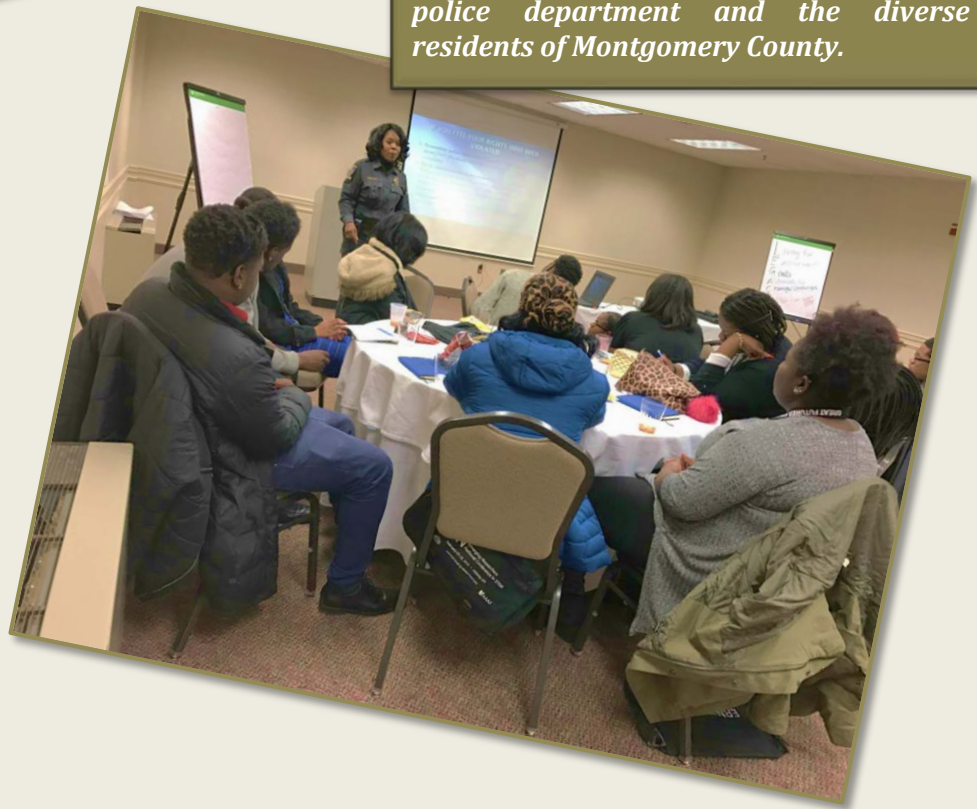
1 <sup>st</sup> District – Rockville	240-773-6070
2 <sup>nd</sup> District – Bethesda	240-773-6700
3 <sup>rd</sup> District – Silver Spring	240-773-6800
4 <sup>th</sup> District – Wheaton	240-773-5500
5 <sup>th</sup> District – Germantown	240-773-6200
6 <sup>th</sup> District – Montgomery Village	240-773-5700

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<sup>8</sup> Gail Ablow. 2016. [Talking Back to Hate Speech, Explained](#).



*MCPD Community Services Officers work with numerous ethnic and faith-based groups to improve trust between the police department and the diverse residents of Montgomery County.*



Follow the [Montgomery County Police](#) on Facebook and Twitter!



## **APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS IN 2016**

### **JANUARY**

- Officer discovered a speed camera spray painted with swastika. This case may have been related to another at the end of 2015. Unknown suspect(s).
- MCPD received a report about a storage container spray painted with racially-charged language at a middle school.
- A male subject made racial statements toward a black female in the drive-thru of a fast food chain. Police information report.
- High school security reported a large amount of gang-related graffiti in the boys' room, including a swastika and pentagram. Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.
- A transgender bus driver reported that two male passengers made comments about killing transgendered people. The bus driver did not want to press charges, only make a report. Police information report.

### **FEBRUARY**

- The victim reported that her neighbor was harassing her over the course of several days, because of her race. The subject was arrested for disorderly conduct and harassment.
- A property manager reported racially motivated vandalism discovered in a house under construction.
- An assortment of vandalism, including a swastika, was discovered in a garage stairwell. Unknown suspect(s).

### **MARCH**

- Independent school administrator reported use of hate language by one student towards another student in social media. The students' social media accounts were terminated and there have been no further incidents.
- High school security reported to SRO that anti-Semitic and gang-related vandalism was discovered in lower level boys' restroom. School handled internally.
- A property manager reported finding an anti-Semitic fax on the office fax machine when she opened the office. Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.
- (TPPD) The victim reported that the subject assaulted her because of her race as she was leaving the bank. Subject was arrested.
- The victim reported receiving a social media message and email from an unknown subject, who made derogatory comments related to the victim's sexual preferences and anger over a pro-Israel article she wrote. Unknown suspect(s).

### **APRIL**

- Two juvenile subjects were identified by eyewitness and security cameras as the individuals who spray painted swastikas on a bridge and a gazebo in the park. Both subjects admitted they were painting over graffiti that had been painted by someone else; however, one admitted to painting a swastika for no reason other than he had seen one somewhere else. Due to the cost associated with removing the graffiti, the community association moved forward with criminal charges.
- The victim was participating in a protest in front of a church when a passing motorist threw a water bottle out the window, bounced off a pole, and struck the victim. Unknown suspect(s).

- The victim reported that she has received five letters in her mailbox since December, telling her to "get out of the neighborhood" because of her race. Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.
- Flyers from the white supremacy group "New Order" were found in front of homes in Damascus. Police information report.
- Two neighbors reported finding a plastic bag on their front steps, which contained supremacist/neo-Nazi propaganda from the New Order. Police information report.
- An anonymous complainant reported a noose hanging from a beam near the front of an elementary school. MCPD officer removed the noose. Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.
- A complainant reported two white teenage boys spray painting swastikas behind an elementary school. Subjects were not located, but three painted swastikas were found. Leads exhausted; case suspended.
- A complainant reported that another driver who was known to him was aggressively tailgating him during his commute home. The aggressive driver also yelled racial epithets at the complainant when he pulled into his driveway. The complainant was advised how to obtain a peace order. Police information report.
- The Davis Library reported that a book was vandalized with swastikas, praise for ISIS and al Qaeda, MS-13, and other supremacy groups. Unknown suspect(s).

## MAY

- Montgomery College reported vandalism in a men's bathroom, which included a racial epithet and a swastika written on the wall in rubber cement; multiple ceiling tiles knocked away; rubber cement and a thumb tack on a toilet seat; and damage to a toilet paper dispenser. Unknown suspect(s).
- A victim was transported to a hospital after sustaining a small laceration on the back of his head, which he stated he received from a black male who struck him on the back of the head while he was waiting at the bus stop. Victim reported that the subject issued a statement about the victim's ethnicity, and then ran away. During the course of investigation, the victim stopped communicating with the officer and the case was closed exceptionally.
- (TPPD) A Jewish victim reported that his *Black Lives Matter* sign was vandalized and made reference to Hitler. Unknown suspect(s).
- A report was taken for anti-Semitic flyers left at the homes of two Jewish families. Police information report.
- The victim reported that a driver pulled behind her at a light and told her to return to her country. Officers contacted the driver who stated that he honked the horn when she didn't move fast enough at the light; she gestured to him with one of her fingers, and he cursed her out when he pulled alongside of her. MCPD referred the victim to the commissioner for charges.
- Complainant reported that a passing motorist shouted, "We hate you white people, we're gonna kill you all". Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.

## JUNE

- Two victims reported being assaulted by another driver after they honked their horn at her at the stoplight. The subject followed the victims to a parking lot and began verbally assaulting them about their ethnicity/religion, threw liquid all over them, pushed them, and punched one victim in the arm. The victims captured the license plate information and the officer filed for charges.



- The complainants reported that they have had a negative relationship with their neighbors for the last four years. Recently, the neighbors made comments related to the complainants' ethnicity that has caused them to be afraid to go outside. The neighbors also state that the victims also make discriminatory statements toward them. Instructions were given to the complainants on how to obtain a peace order.
- Elementary school student victim reports being threatened and physically assaulted by subject during lunch at school (ongoing bullying issue). Subject has repeatedly made comments about victim being white. Unable to locate suspect or his family; appear to have moved. Case closed administratively.
- An Uber driver reported that his last fare, who appeared to be drunk, assaulted him and told him to "go back to your country, you terrorist". The victim obtained a district court summons.
- A library patron reported vandalism done to the library's copy of a newspaper, including two swastikas and disturbing messages related to the Orlando shooting, and ISIS. Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.
- Middle school administrator reported anti-religious graffiti in the girls' bathroom praising ISIS. Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.
- The victim reported he was tailgated by a subject, who eventually passed him and gave him the finger. The other subject intentionally slowed down and threatened the victim with a racial slur. Both drivers got out at a traffic light; the subject threatened the victim with a gun. Subject was arrested.
- The victim reported that she observed a racial epithet written in marker on her apartment door. The victim believes it may have been her neighbor, who she does not get along with.
- The complainant reported finding a note on her car stating that "undocumented people are not welcome in our county, you don't belong here. I hope you move." Unknown suspect(s). Police information report.

## JULY

- Security reported that an unknown suspect painted anti-Semitic graffiti on the top level of the parking deck. Leads exhausted; investigation suspended.
- Two victims reported that they were ignored by employees at a pizza chain store (received no service) because of their sexual orientation, then followed to the parking lot by another employee who pushed them around, assaulted them, and wouldn't let them leave. Subject who assaulted the victims was arrested.
- Complainant reported that someone had taken a *Black Lives Matter* sign from the property of the church. Unknown suspect(s).
- MCPD officers responded for a disorderly call; a building manager had to physically separate two neighbors that were arguing. During the course of investigating the call, one of the subjects became disorderly with the building manager and used racial epithets towards her. Subject was arrested.
- The victim reported that an unknown male made several harassing/threatening phone calls that referenced Hitler, and being Jewish. Investigation continues (waiting on Verizon subpoena).
- The victim was verbally (racial epithets) and physically assaulted by a subject on an elevator. Both parties were instructed how to file charges.
- A citizen reported to an officer on patrol that he had found some offensive racial graffiti written on the concession stand/ bathroom in the park. Investigative leads were exhausted; case suspended.

- A victim was punched by a subject in the parking lot of a retail store; subject made comments about the victim's ethnicity prior to punching the victim. The subject was arrested.
- The complainant reported that an unknown subject joined a private chat group and continued to post anti-LGBT messages for approximately 15 minutes, concluding with "Maybe ya'll just need an Orlando". Skype was not able to use the information provided by the investigator to locate the user. Case suspended.

## **AUGUST**

- Two transgendered victims reported that they were verbally assaulted by two men at a convenience store. One of the subjects threw a hot cup of soup onto the victims and began striking one of the victims. Both subjects were arrested.
- A subject became irate at the library over the level of service she perceived she was receiving, and used racial epithets towards library employees, while otherwise making a scene at the library. The library employee requested the subject be banned from the library. A trespass notice was issued. Police information report.
- A victim reported receiving ongoing homophobic and anti-Semitic postings through various social media outlets. The victim also received a fax at his business with similar anti-Semitic and homophobic thoughts. The detective identified the online profile (out of state) and contacted the other jurisdiction to follow up. Since then, no additional harassment has occurred. The case is suspended, pending further information.
- The victim's roommate physically assaulted her and used racial epithets towards her while doing so. The subject was arrested.

## **SEPTEMBER**

- The complainant, whose residence is adjacent to a Jewish school, reported that an unknown subject had applied graffiti (swastika) to the steps of the walkway in front of her house with a black marker. Unknown suspect(s).
- The victim reported that a group of Hispanic males who claimed to be MS-13 began harassing him with hateful words about being gay. When the victim tried to get away, one struck him with a bat. Unknown suspect(s).
- The complainant reported that a neighbor has been making fun of his wife's hijab and has made comments about their skin color. Police information report.
- The victims, a rabbi and the director of operations at the same synagogue, received a series of harassing/threatening voice mails and text messages (personal phone) and emails (personal and work). Police investigation revealed the messages/calls were coming from a subject in Howard County, who was taken in for evaluation later that evening. The messages stopped for approximately 3 weeks, then began again. The officer advised the rabbi how to obtain a protective order, and the officer will follow up later with criminal charges.
- (RCPD) The complainant reported that a blue inked swastika was discovered in a Montgomery College restroom. Unknown suspect(s).
- A transgendered victim was confronted by a friend's boyfriend, who stated he did not want her hanging out with his girlfriend. The subject punched her in the head, knocked her to the ground, and used discriminatory names toward the victim. Charges were obtained and an arrest warrant was issued. However, the suspect has left the state.

## **OCTOBER**

- The victim reported receiving several negative tweets about a visit to a museum. The victim visited the Twitter user's page and observed hate material directed towards African and

Jewish Americans, but no specific threats directed specifically to the victim. Police information report.

- High school principal contacted police about swastikas drawn on a desk that was occupied by a specific student. The student confessed to drawing the swastikas and stated he was just being immature and didn't intend any hate or bias toward anyone. The school did not wish to press charges, but suspended him for two days.
- Victim reported being assaulted by an unknown subject after the victim and a store employee confronted the subject about shoplifting. The subject yelled racial slurs at the victim, and hit in the face, breaking his glasses. Through video and witness statements, an officer was able to identify the subject and make an arrest.
- A school employee reported to police that someone had used a caustic substance to draw a penis and testicles, as well as a swastika, on the football field. Unknown suspect(s).
- A group of people was confronted by a subject while patronizing a restaurant. The subject threw water on two of the victims and began insulting them about sexual orientation. Both parties exited the restaurant and began fighting, and it was broken up by restaurant staff. Suspects fled but were quickly apprehended and arrested.
- A complainant called MCPD to report a banner advertising an elementary school event had been vandalized with two penises and two swastikas. A pole and a nearby wooden fence also had penises painted on them. Unknown suspect(s).

## NOVEMBER

- High school administrator reported finding numerous swastikas penciled on the walls of the boys' restroom. School handled internally.
- A subject pulled into the parking lot of a mosque, playing the national anthem, and initially refused to leave so the police were called. Investigation into this incident revealed that the subject was dropping someone off. Police information report.
- High school students hung a sign outside the bathroom door: "Whites Only". The students were identified via video and the school handled the matter internally. Police information report.
- High school student reported several swastikas had been drawn inside the boy's bathroom with a glue stick and also black ink. School handled internally.
- After having a confrontation with a group of unknown subjects directing racial comments at parishioners, a priest reported racial vandalism on the side of the church and on a banner advertising services. All leads investigated; case remains open.
- During a verbal disagreement, neighbor #1 stated to neighbor #2 that he (neighbor #2) would have to go back to his country soon. The disagreement turned physical, and neighbor #1 was arrested for assault.
- (GCPD) A complainant reported that numerous messages had been left on the company's voice mail, using racial epithets to describe an employee that had provided service to him. There were no threats made towards the employee or the company. Investigation was unable to identify the phone number from which the calls were made. Case suspended.
- A high school student reported receiving harassing text messages that included ethnic slurs. The victim believes a former friend may be responsible. Attempts to contact the friend have been negative. The school resource officer was notified.
- An elementary school principal reported that racial vandalism was discovered in a girl's bathroom. The school handled the investigation internally.
- (RCPD) A victim reported that she received a phone call with an automated message stating "All of you blacks need to get out of here and go back". The victim has not received any additional calls and declined to pursue the matter further.



- The victim reported that someone spray painted a swastika on his front door and his American flag was stolen. He also reported that in prior weeks, his political signs had been destroyed and his home had been egged. The victim believes he was targeted because of his political affiliation.
- The complainant reported that she found a note "from ISIS" on her car. Police information report.
- High school librarian reported that she observed two swastikas on a coloring table in the media center, along with the phrase "coexist". Police information report.
- The victims reported that while they were pulled over making repairs to their car, three subjects attacked and robbed them, using anti-Hispanic slurs during the incident. The victims were unable to provide any investigative leads on the suspects, but some personal property was recovered and returned.
- A Gaithersburg City police officer responded for a vandalism report and discovered a garbage can, owned by the City of Gaithersburg, had a red swastika spray painted on it. Unknown suspect(s).
- (RCPD) An elementary school principal reported that a swastika was initially discovered in a boy's bathroom. Exactly one hour later, a series of derogatory comments about a teacher at the school was discovered. The school handled the investigation internally.
- A complainant reported finding a swastika in a high school men's bathroom. Police information report.
- The victim reported that the family's three vehicles were vandalized overnight with numerous swastikas, statements related to the family's political affiliation, and other disparaging comments. The initial investigation indicates student(s) from the school the victim's son attends may be responsible.

## DECEMBER

- High school security official reported to the police that a swastika was discovered in the men's bathroom. Unknown suspect(s).
- An officer was dispatched for a report of anti-homosexual vandalism on a public bench. Unknown suspect(s).
- The complainant reported finding an anti-Semitic flyer in his yard. Two other neighbors found the same flyer the day before and discarded it. The investigation identified a possible suspect with an outstanding warrant in Calvert County.
- A police officer was patrolling a specific area due to previously reported incidents of vandalism on a public bench and discovered a reference to the "KKK" on the same bench. Unknown suspect(s).
- A pastor reported to the police that three metal flag poles with rainbow flags had been knocked down, but there was no damage to the actual flags. The pastor believes the church was targeted because they have been doing outreach to the LGBTQ community. Unknown suspect; no cameras in the area.
- The victims, who identify as females, stated they had been drinking at several bars, and kept running into two subjects. At the third bar, the subjects approached the female victims and made derogatory comments about their gender and began pushing them. Subjects fled prior to the arrival of police. Victims were instructed how to file charges against the subjects, if they wanted to do so.
- The complainant reported that he discovered a plastic sandwich bag containing neo-Nazi/white supremacy material in his driveway. Police information report.

- A church reported discovering in November that someone had carved a reference to the "KKK" into the concrete sewer at a nearby intersection. The church has not received any threats. Unknown suspect(s).
- High school security reported that multiple swastikas were found on a lab table in a classroom. Subsequent interviews identified several students responsible for parts of the vandalism. School officials are handling administratively.
- An elementary school student reported to a teacher that someone had written "Kill all whites" on a bathroom wall. Unknown suspect(s).
- (RCPD) A librarian reported that a patron discovered hate-filled speech, including a swastika, written inside a book. Unknown suspect(s).
- The victim, who is from India, reported that when he returned to his office, his desktop flag representing India had been placed on the floor in a manner he perceived as insulting his nationality. The victim declined to identify his coworkers to police and the matter is being handled internally. Police information report.
- Gaithersburg City police officers responded to restaurant for a disorderly subject. The officers determined that the subject had shouted racial slurs at the victim and her children, and then left without paying the bill. The subject was arrested for disorderly conduct and failure to pay.
- (RCPD) The complainant reported that he discovered a swastika on bricks behind a building. It is unknown when this incident occurred, and suspect(s) is unknown.



### *Working Together for a Better Community*

*The Office of Human Rights, the Faith Community Working Group, the Silver Spring Advisory Board, the NAACP, and the Montgomery County Police co-sponsored a Town Hall in December, in an effort to continue the dialogue on police-community relations.*

