

# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON BIAS INCIDENTS**

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2017 MCP Annual Report on Bias Incidents compiled by the Policy & Planning Division*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Hate crimes and bias incidents remain serious issues for police all over our nation. There has been increased attention to hate crimes since the spike that occurred in the months following the elections in November 2016. Unfortunately, we too, saw an increase in incidents, from 98 cases in 2016 to 123 cases in 2017. Some encouraging news is that in the last quarter of 2017, we saw the number of cases return to more typical levels (approximately 6 cases per month).

Religion and race continue to be the primary bias motivators in Montgomery County. Most hate/bias incidents occur in the form of graffiti or vandalism. Others are written and verbal intimidations, or physical assaults. Every hate crime that occurs in Montgomery County is assigned to a detective for follow-up, and while many of these cases are difficult investigations, we were able to identify 53 culprits who had some involvement in the commission of a hate crime or bias incident.



Approximately 2/3 of the subjects identified were under the age of 18. The involvement of so many youth in these cases should be a wake-up call to parents, teachers, cops and the media, that more education and conversation needs to occur. Young people need to understand the harm of targeting anyone for hate, threats, or ridicule based on one's race, religion, ethnicity, appearance, manner of speech or any other class or condition protected by law. Children, even teenagers, need healthy adult influences in their lives. We all have a responsibility to teach and model civility, kindness, and tolerance.

Hate and prejudice have a profound impact on our community. No one should live in fear, all people should be encouraged to report hate crimes. The MCPD remains committed to upholding the civil and human rights of all people.

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

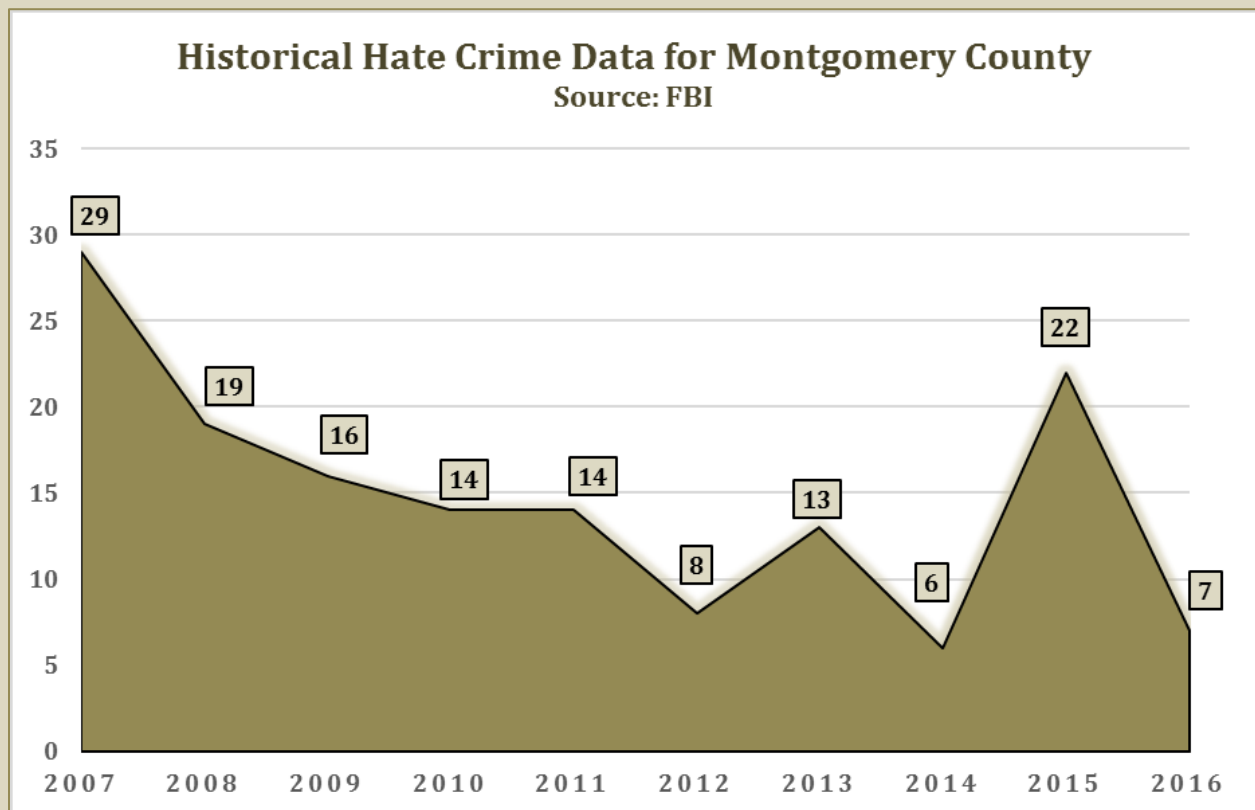
The Montgomery County Police Department's *Annual Report on Bias Incidents* is a report that provides statistical data about all of the incidents and criminal offenses that are motivated by the offender's bias against a race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, sexual 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 2017, the department recorded 123 bias incidents, an increase from the 98 reported in 2016 (11 of the 2017 incidents and 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 only reports hate crimes; it does not track incidents of bias.



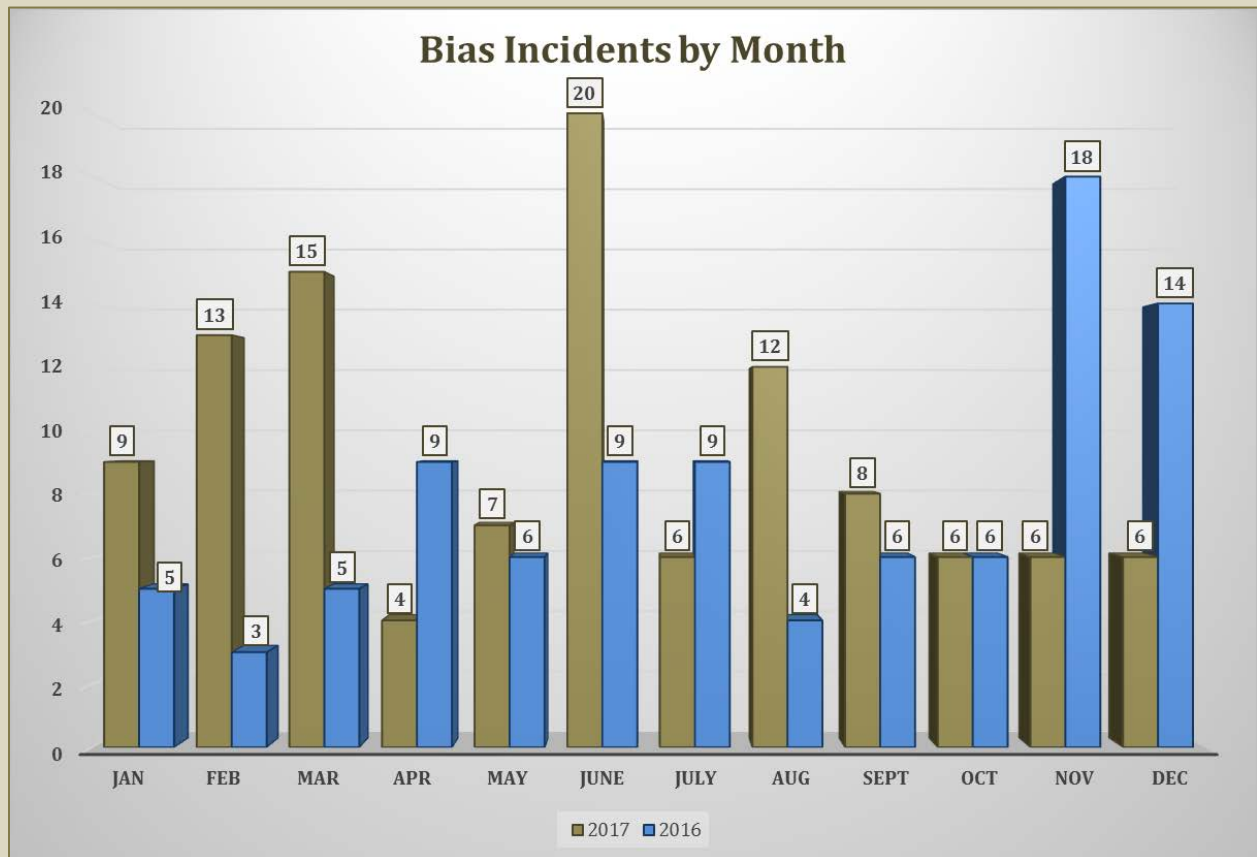
Due to differences in reporting at the local, state, and federal levels, illustrated above, and changes that have been made internally, there is little comparative data available and readers are cautioned against making simplistic comparisons between multiple years, or data and/or other reports from 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.

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

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

## REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS

There were 112 reported bias incidents in 2017<sup>2</sup>, an increase of 19.1% over the number of bias incidents reported in 2016 (94). In November 2016, the department began experiencing a sharp increase in the number of reported bias incidents, which carried into 2017 but began declining after a spike in June when 20 incidents were reported, the highest number of incidents to be reported in 2016 or 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 2017, there were more than 1.04 million people living in Montgomery County. The following characteristics define the community, according to the Census Bureau<sup>3</sup>:

- 23.4% of persons are under the age of 18. Persons 65 years of age or older make up 14.5% of the community.
- 58.3% of persons are of a non-white race (African-American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, etc.)

<sup>2</sup> The official number reported does not include the eight incidents that were determined to be unfounded during the course of investigation, or the three incidents that were referred to another jurisdiction for investigation.

<sup>3</sup> Data retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/montgomerycountymaryland/AGE775216>

- And according to another source, nearly 41% of Montgomery County’s population identifies as religious<sup>4</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 112 total bias incidents that were recorded in 2017, 13 incidents reflected multiple bias motivations. Religion and race continue to be the primary bias motivators (51 and 50 incidents respectively), then sexual orientation (15 incidents), and ethnicity (8 incidents). Gender bias was a motivation in one incident.

Within these categories, the following points should be considered:

- Of the 51 incidents motivated by bias towards religion, 74.5% (38) were considered anti-Jewish, despite Jewish persons making up only 3.1% of the population. Another 11 incidents (21.6%) were considered anti-Islamic.
- Of the 50 incidents motivated by bias towards a race, 80% (40) were considered anti-black. There were also five multi-racial incidents (vandalism and flyers left behind) in which references to the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist groups were discovered.
- Of the 8 incidents motivated by ethnicity bias, six were anti-Hispanic and two were anti-other ethnicity.

This is slightly different than trends at the national level, where race/ethnicity motivated 57.5% of single-bias incidents in 2016, while religious bias was a factor in only 21%.<sup>5</sup> But this is the first year in which the trend shifted slightly in Montgomery County. In 2016, anti-Jewish bias incidents comprised 34% of the total incidents and anti-Black incidents only 21.3%. In 2017, anti-Jewish incidents made up 30.4% of the total incidents, while anti-Black incidents increased to 32% of the total number. There was also a 150% increase in the number of incidents that appeared to be motivated by sexual orientation, but the volume of these incidents remains low.

## **TYPES OF BIAS INCIDENTS**

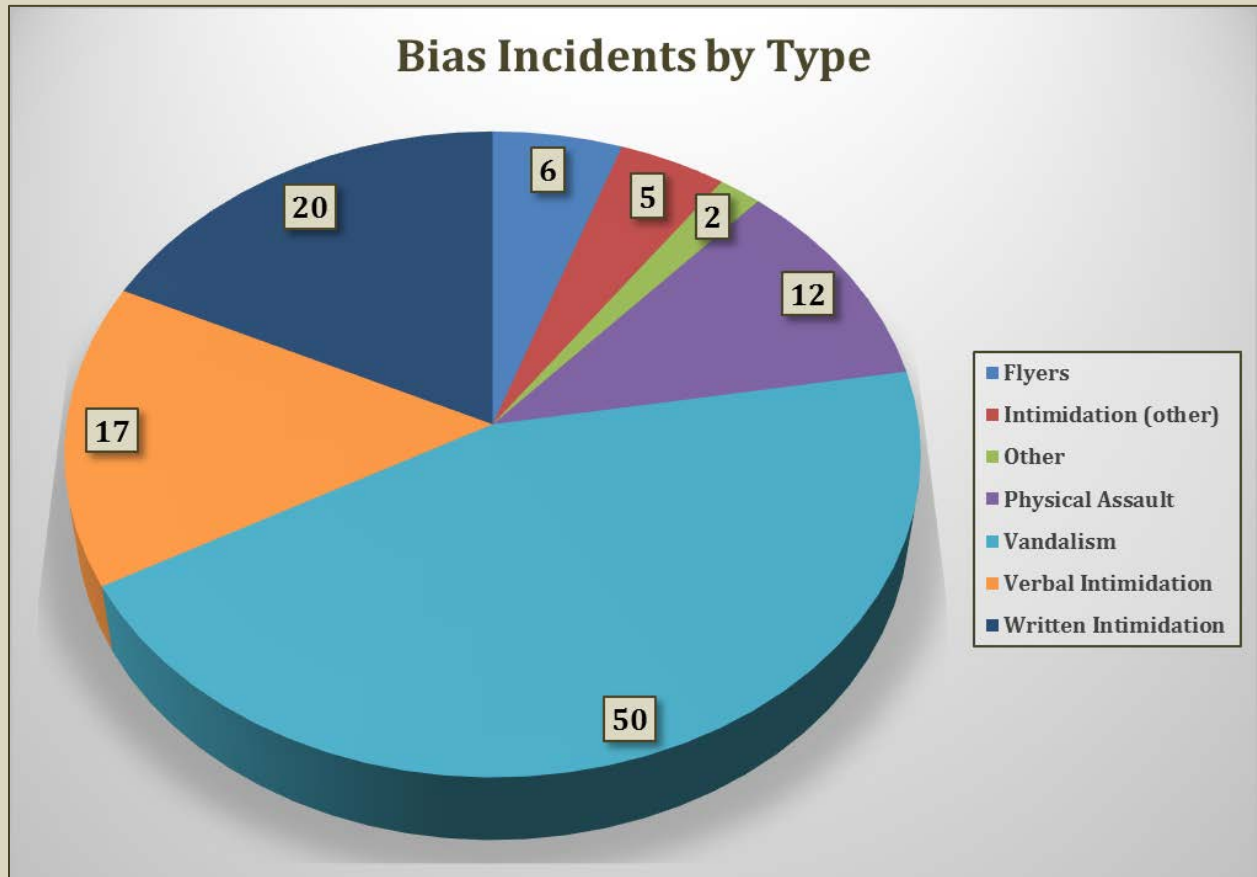
For statistical purposes, bias incidents are classified into additional categories that are separate and distinct from offense classifications. Approximately 44.6% percent of the reported bias incidents fall into the category of vandalism/graffiti (50 incidents). This figure has increased slightly as a percentage of the whole; in 2016, 43% of the incidents involved vandalism. Twenty-eight of the vandalisms occurred in or near a school (56%). The most frequent type of vandalism/graffiti reported is the swastika, identified in more than half of the vandalism cases in 2017. Twenty of the

<sup>4</sup> Data retrieved from <http://www.bestplaces.net/religion/county/maryland/montgomery>

<sup>5</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2017). 2016 Hate Crime Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2016-hate-crime-statistics>. FBI statistics for 2017 will not be available until the fall of 2018.



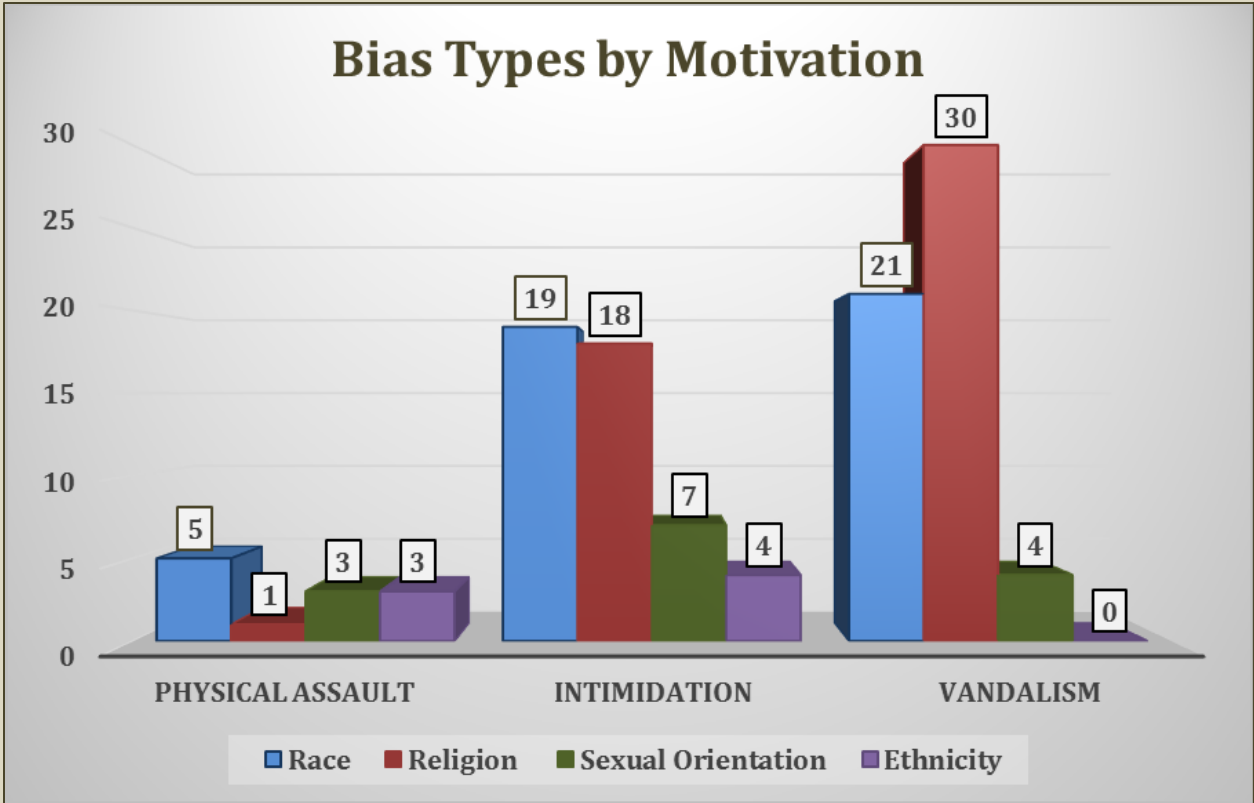
28 school vandalisms included a swastika and/or a reference to Hitler. Racial and anti-homosexual epithets are also frequently included with the swastika(s).



Written intimidation (17.9%) followed by verbal intimidation (15.2%) were the next most frequent types of bias incidents reported. Overall, there were 42 incidents involving some form of intimidation; this includes the use of a noose for the purpose of intimidating in four specific incidents.

There was a slight decline in the number of physical assaults reported in 2017, after the number had increased for the last two years. There were only 12 assaults resulting in 16 victims, which is 38.5% fewer victims than the 26 in 2016.

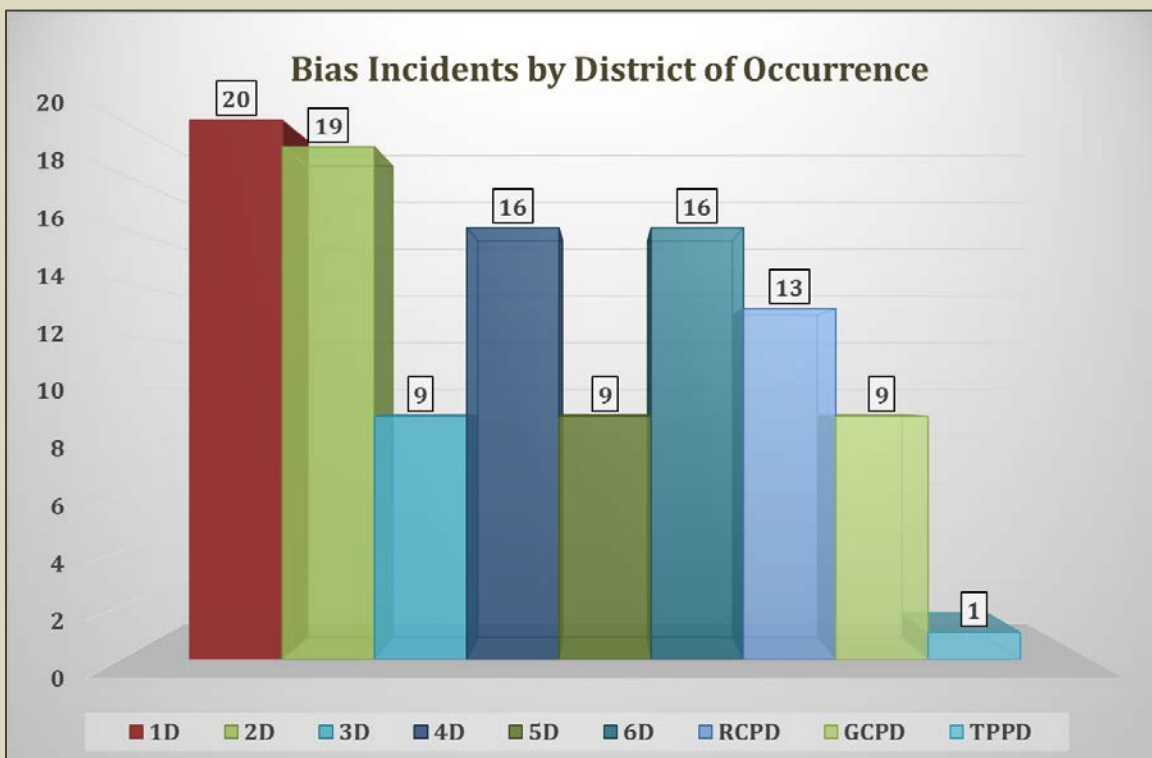
The table below graphically depicts the motivation behind the vandalism, intimidation incidents, and physical assaults reported in 2017.



## INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

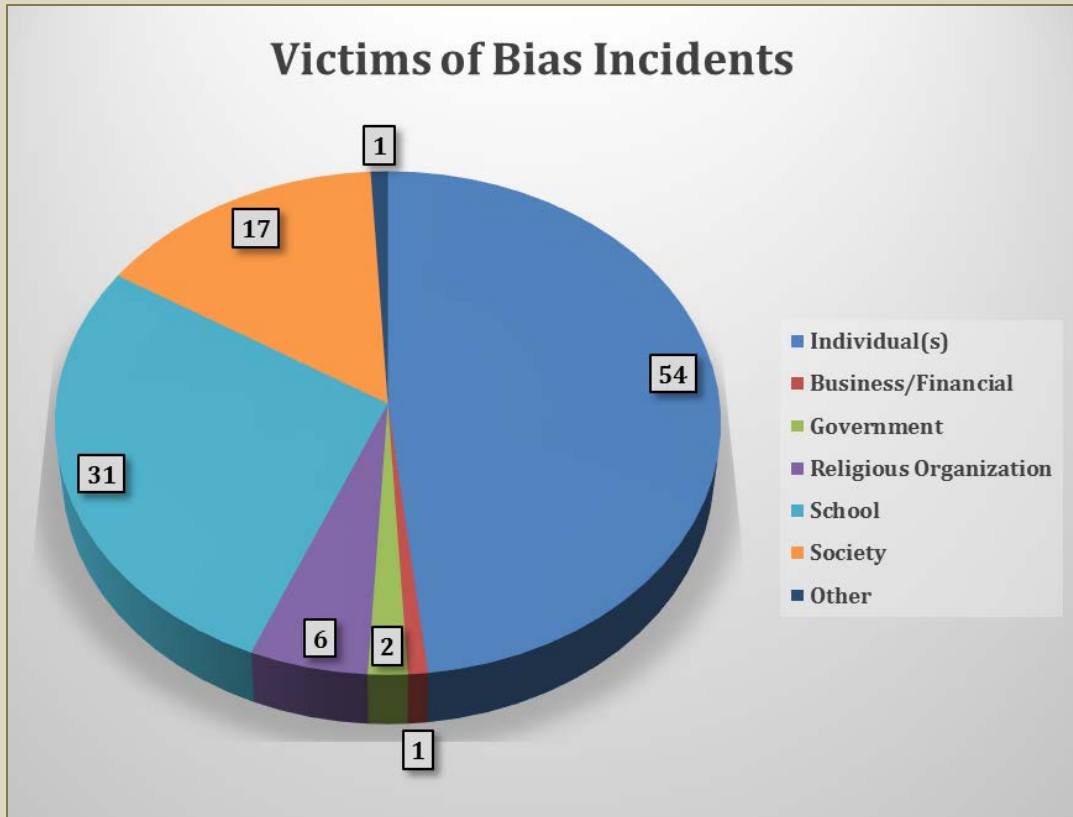
This year, the bias incidents were further separated to reflect those incidents recorded by the Rockville City and Gaithersburg Police Departments.

In 2017, 17.9% of the total bias incidents occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> District (20), with an additional 11.6% occurring in Rockville City (13). The 6<sup>th</sup> District had 16 incidents, but when combined with the 9 incidents that occurred in Gaithersburg, had the second highest volume of incidents (22.3%) in 2017. This represents significant increases in the percentage of incidents for both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts over 2016, 106% and 127%, respectively. Combined, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts accounted for 51.8% of the bias incidents this year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District, generally one of the highest, had 19 incidents, a decline from 25 in 2016, and the 4<sup>th</sup> District had 16, slightly higher than the 12 incidents in 2016.



## VICTIMS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

Of the 112 incidents committed in 2017, there were 54 incidents that were committed against individuals (48.2%); 9 of those incidents had multiple victims. Overall, there were 66 individual victims of bias incidents in 2017. The remaining incidents were committed against society, religious organizations, schools/ colleges, government entities, a business, and a Masonic lodge.

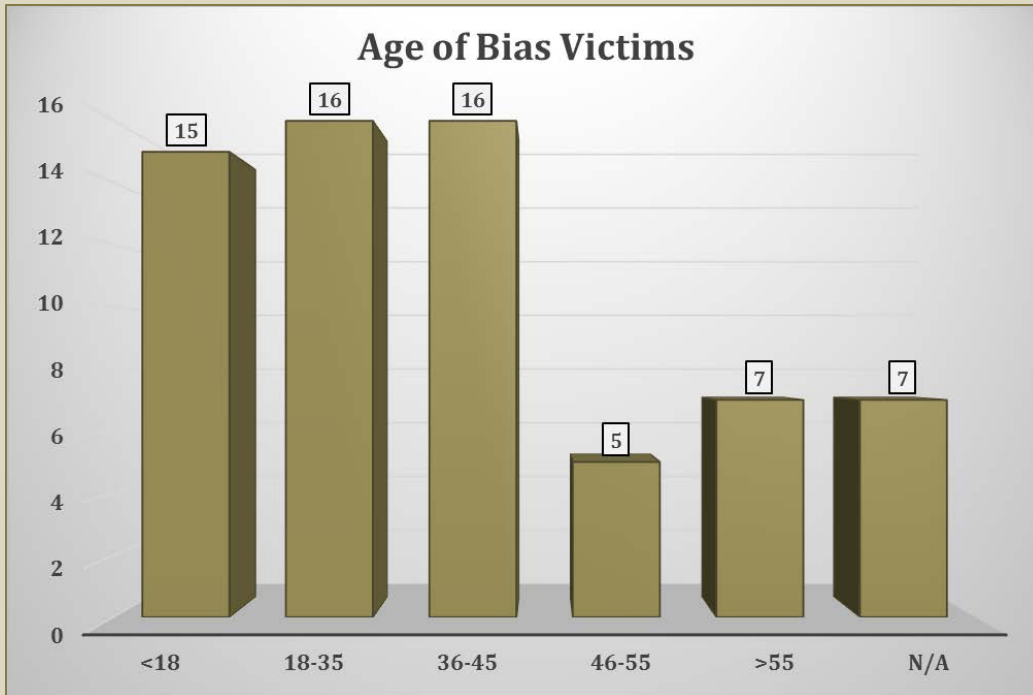


Of note is the number of incidents in which a school or a college was the target of a bias incident, generally vandalism. There were 31 incidents in 2017 involving a school, compared to only 21 incidents in 2016. Sixteen of these incidents occurred at a high school; eight at a middle school; four at an elementary school; one at Montgomery College; and two near private schools. Separately, there were 11 incidents that occurred in school in which specific individuals, rather than the school, were targeted. Eight of these occurred in a high school and three in a middle school. Overall, 38% of the bias incidents reported in 2017 occurred within or near a school facility.

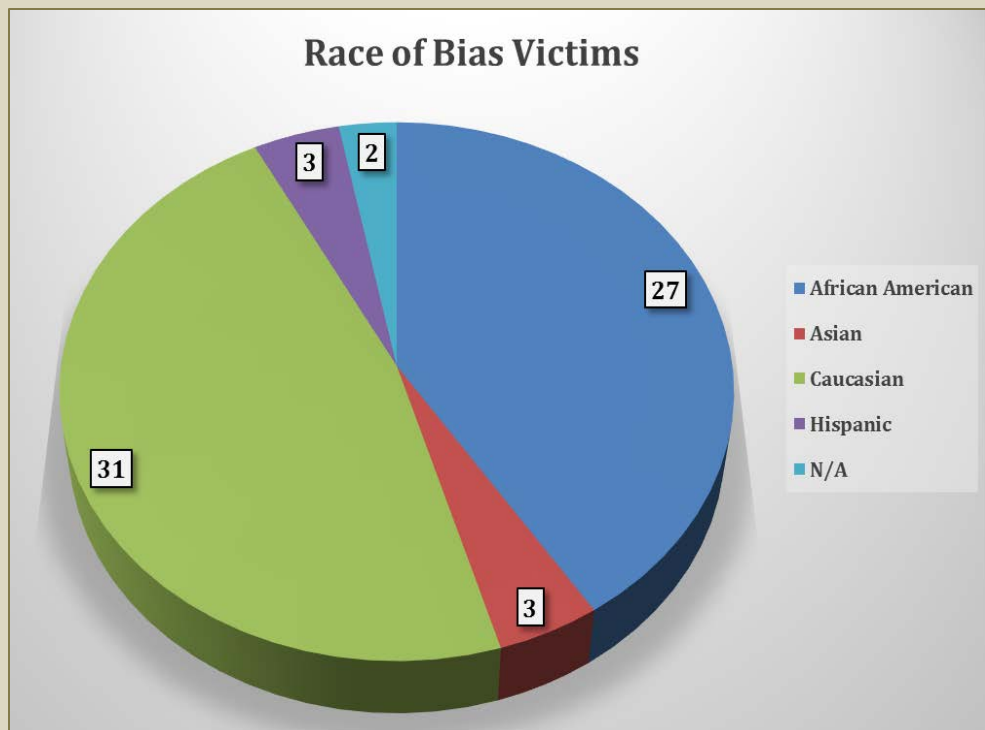
#### **Victim Demographics**

Amongst those cases in which specific individuals were victims (66 victims, total), there were 30 female victims and 35 male victims (note: one report did not contain any gender information for the victim).

Although the number of victims aged 36 to 45 years old remained high (16), there was a slight increase in the number of victims between the ages of 18 and 35 years old (16), and there was a significant increase in the number of incidents in which the victim was under the age of 18 years old (15). Overall, 71.2% of the victims in the 2017 incidents were under the age of 45 years old.



Slightly less than half of the victims of bias-motivated incidents identify as Caucasian (47%), 40.9% identify as African American, 4.5% as Hispanic, and 4.5% as Asian. The number of African American victims increased this year by nearly 69%, while the number of Caucasian and Hispanic victims has declined slightly from the previous year.

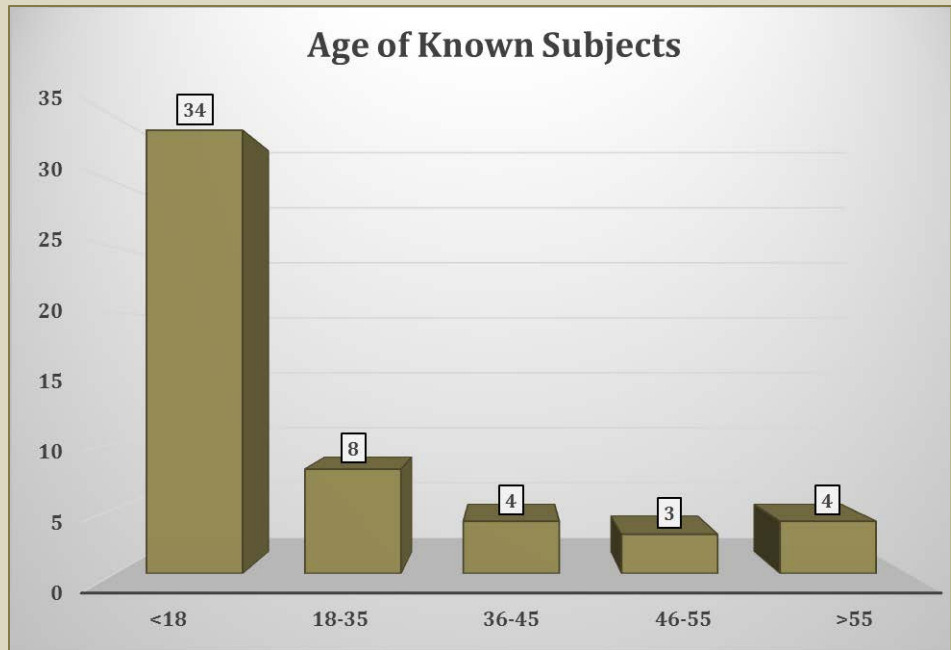


*Note: Jewish victims are included in the Caucasian category.*

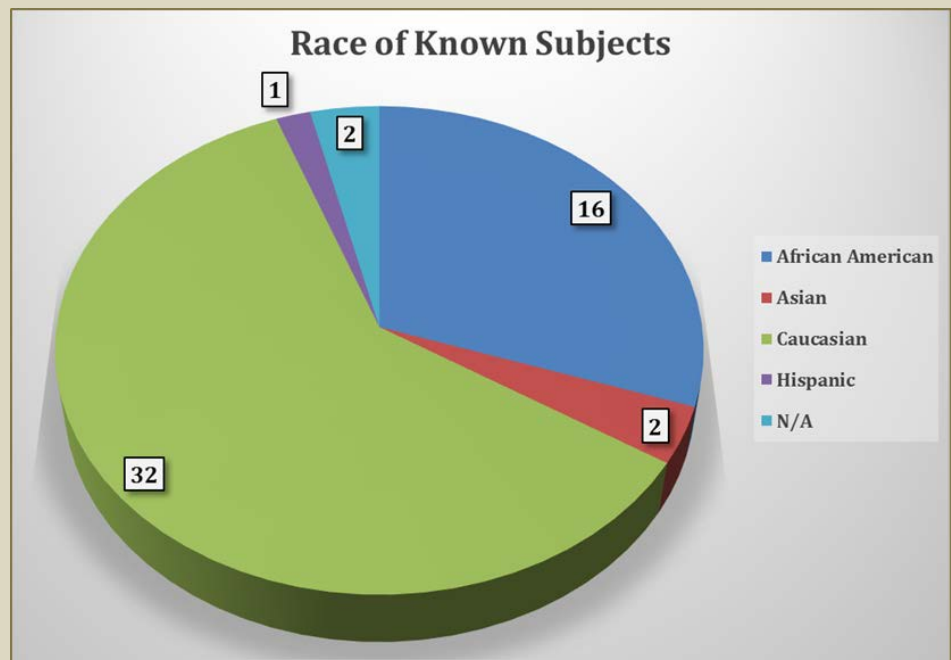
## OFFENDERS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

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 2017, victims were able to provide suspect information in nearly 32% of the 112 incidents (35), most of which were for some type of intimidation (22). **There were 53 subjects developed and/or identified in these 35 incidents.** Three arrests were made for three of these cases.

A demographic profile of the 37 subjects is presented in the next two charts. Because there was such a significant increase in juvenile subjects and school-related incidents, school administrators frequently handled discipline internally, and deferred the subjects out of the criminal justice system.



Among known subjects, the dominant offender group is males (44 of the 53 known subjects were males). This year, 33 of the 53 subjects were under the age of 18, a 267% increase over 2016. Thirty-two of the 53 subjects identified as Caucasian.



## TRAINING & OUTREACH

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.

Improvements have been 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. In 2016, the MCPD renewed its commitment to community service and

policing by re-forming the Community Engagement Division, which oversees 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. The



*The MCPD was involved in many events this year that promoted goodwill and understanding, and the elimination of discrimination and intolerance.*

executive staff and the community services officers at each district frequently attend training and meet with community members, and present about bias incidents to schools and other community organizations, as requested. In 2017, the MCPD held more than 100 events with community groups that could potentially be victims of a bias-motivated incident, or that may already be concerned or in fear because of national and worldwide events (i.e., LGBTQ representatives, African American and Hispanic committees, faith communities, etc.).

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 through outreach and engagement, to include the [Committee on Hate/Violence](#). The purpose of the Committee on Hate/Violence is to develop and distribute information about hate/violence and promote educational activities that demonstrate the positive value of ethnic and social diversity.

Similarly, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization known as [Communities United Against Hate](#) launched in April 2017 to also help unite Montgomery County's diverse community to combat bigotry, support victims of hate, and promote inclusiveness.

Many opportunities remain to combat bias and stereotypes that lead to bias incidents, and to build trust amongst the diverse residents of Montgomery County. The department's Public Information Office will continue to play 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 can significantly increase the likelihood that peace, stability, and understanding will be restored, and fear, suspicion, and anger will be alleviated.

## 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

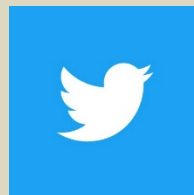


can prevent bias incidents, please consider contacting the commander of the [Community Engagement Division](#), who will be able to coordinate the department's community services resources, or direct you to the most appropriate resource for your need.

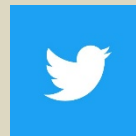
Montgomery County Police Department District Stations

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

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



The MCPD Community Engagement Division is also on social media!



## APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF 2017 BIAS INCIDENTS

### JANUARY

- A high school assistant principal reported that a student was harassed on social media by another student who used a racial epithet in several messages.
- A religious organization reported finding a note containing anti-Islamic language taped to the front door of one of their buildings.
- Rockville City received a report of swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti in a park.
- The victim reported that she was the target of an anti-Semitic bias incident after hanging a “Black Lives Matter” banner.
- The Jewish Community Center received a bomb threat.
- A non-Jewish victim reported that she was the target of several prank calls involving anti-Semitic language.
- A middle school principal reported anti-Semitic graffiti on a bathroom wall.
- A middle school principal reported anti-Semitic graffiti in two of the girls’ bathrooms and at different times of the day.
- The complainant reported that his wife had received an email containing anti-Islamic language after she contacted an online retailer about a transaction.

### FEBRUARY

- The victim reported that a subject approached her in the workplace and questioned her about not hiring him earlier. He became irate and stated that “you minorities need to go back from where you came from.”
- Residential property manager reported an ongoing issue between a resident and the assistant manager. The manager and other neighbors believe the resident’s actions are motivated by anti-Islamic sentiment.
- A security officer reported that a professor had discovered writing in a women’s bathroom that she believed referred to Hitler.
- A middle school assistant principal reported that two swastikas were drawn with chalk at the rear entrance of the school.
- A middle school security officer reported that swastikas were drawn on four desks in one of the classrooms.
- An SRO was informed of racial graffiti written on the wall of a special education lab classroom.
- A parent reported that his daughter had been receiving anti-Semitic text messages at school.
- A middle school assistant principal reported that a student discovered swastikas and other graffiti in a girls’ bathroom.
- An SRO assisted a victim who received threatening messages and has been verbally threatened by his parents, who oppose his homosexuality.
- A Rockville City police officer took a report for anti-White graffiti spray painted in a tunnel.
- A religious organization received a letter in the mail that contained anti-Islamic language.
- A separate religious organization also received a letter in the mail containing anti-Islamic language.
- A high school principal reported that a swastika was discovered at a desk that student aides sit at.

### MARCH

- The Jewish Community Center received a bomb threat via email.

- An elementary school principal reported there had been two incidents in which racial epithets were written in the boys' bathroom and an incident in which a swastika was made from toilet paper.
- Several people reported anti-religious graffiti had been spray painted on and around their property.
- A high school principal reported that a racial epithet was found written on a science table and was cleaned off. The next day, anti-Semitic language was written on the same table.
- Two victims were involved in an aggravated assault at a fast-food restaurant by a group of suspects who used racial epithets. The victims declined to identify the suspect(s).
- A high school security official reported that a swastika and racial epithet was scratched into a stall door in the boys' bathroom.
- A high school received two phone calls threatening to burn the school down and "kill the illegal immigrants".
- The victim reported that his receipt for lawn care was stuck in his door, but the receipt had a swastika, racial epithets, and political references written on the back.
- An officer responded to a complaint for a parked suspicious vehicle with expired tags; the vehicle had markings for a Spanish-speaking church in Pennsylvania. The complainant was irritated that the vehicle would not be towed at this time and began ranting about immigrants and threatened to handle other suspicious vehicles in his own way.
- Rockville City police took a report from a complainant who found three flyers in the Town Center Area that expressed anti-illegal immigrant sentiments.
- A high school security official reported that he found a swastika drawn in ink on a concrete pole.
- A school principal reported that he took a complaint from a parent who stated that her sons were assaulted at a neighborhood park by another student. During the fight, anti-white comments were made toward the victim.
- A high school security officer reported that a racial epithet and swastika was found written on a door in a boys' bathroom stall.
- A high school assistant principal reported that a number of racist text messages had been sent by three students to another student through a chat group used by one of the school sport teams.
- Officers responded for an assault that just occurred and found a victim with a non-life-threatening injury. The victim stated that an unknown male asked him if he was Spanish and when he responded "yes", the suspect punched him in the face and fled.

#### **APRIL**

- The victims reported they had been part of a verbal dispute when a subject who had been working out in the gym began verbally harassing them with racial slurs.
- A County security officer discovered an offensive flyer on the entrance gate to the Council Office Building.
- A Rockville City officer took a report for the same offensive flyer found at the same location a week later.
- A victim reported that she discovered a racial epithet written on her front door when she returned home.

#### **MAY**

- An SRO handled a middle school incident in which a student was making offensive jokes and talked about shooting the school and gay bars, and used anti-homosexual slurs toward

another student. A parent also reported the student after seeing disturbing social media posts by the student that made the same statement.

- A high school security officer reported that someone had written “whites only” and “blacks only” on the hand dryers in the boys’ bathroom.
- A homeowner discovered a hangman’s noose hanging from a branch in the wooded area behind his house.
- The victim reported that he has been having an ongoing issue with a woman he sees walking in the parking lot when he drops his wife off for work. The suspect has directed racial epithets toward him and threatened him with a knife.
- While investigating a burglary at an elementary school, the officers found a worksheet with a racial epithet written on it.
- A report was written for graffiti (swastikas and a penis) found on the back of an elementary school.

## JUNE

- An SRO was notified by a teacher that she had discovered a swastika on a desk and erased it.
- A middle school principal reported that a student had found a swastika scratched into a computer monitor.
- The victim’s daughter came home to find the front door covered in post-it notes, which contained assorted messages about Satan. The victim believed she was targeted because she is Muslim.
- Vandalism containing a racial epithet and political statement was found on a basketball court in a park.
- The victim stated that the subject made anti-ethnic statements toward him and referenced “killing people like him”.
- Gaithersburg officers discovered swastikas and other anti-Semitic messages in a garage stairwell.
- The victim stated that he has been in a longstanding dispute with a neighbor, who recently made anti-racial and anti-homosexual comments toward him.
- A citizen reported that she found anti-Semitic graffiti on the Clara Barton Parkway bridge.
- A high school principal reported that someone had written a racial epithet on a bank of lockers in school.
- A middle school principal reported that a male student gave a female student a noose. The suspect stated he had found the string and tied it in a knot, and then one of his friends dared him to give it her.
- A citizen reported that she found many swastikas drawn in a chalk near the intersection for the Torah School of Greater Washington.
- A number of residents reported that there was a rope resembling a noose hanging from a tree nearby. A witness believed it resembled the rope used by Hispanic men in the neighborhood for fishing.
- Unknown suspect(s) had spray painted anti-homosexual phrases on the curb and brick signs throughout a neighborhood.
- A victim reported that her car had been egged and believed it to be done by her neighbor, who has used anti-racial slurs toward her in the past.
- The complainant was taking a walk and discovered a noose hanging from a basketball hoop in the park.
- A female victim reported that someone scratched an anti-homosexual slur into the rear passenger side door of her car.

- A male victim reported that someone had scratched an anti-homosexual slur into the paint on his vehicle.
- The victim reported that three of his vehicles were vandalized in front of his home. The victim does not feel safe in his neighborhood and believes he was targeted because of his race.
- The victims reported that someone had vandalized their front door with a racial epithet.
- The victim reported that while walking with her daughter on the Capital Crescent Trail, three boys on bicycles had ridden by and used an ethnic slur toward them.

## **JULY**

- The victim reported that someone had thrown eggs at his car and that a similar incident had occurred two weeks prior to that one, along with a note containing anti-Islamic statements.
- A complainant reported that a rainbow-colored flag was stolen from the church.
- Four high school students placed two dolls in nooses on the seats in the auditorium.
- A victim reported that she found a letter containing anti-Israeli references in her driveway and several of her neighbors' driveways. The same letter was also found at her place of employment that morning.
- The victims reported an ongoing issue with their neighbor who is upset about construction vehicles blocking the intersection. The neighbor continues to direct anti-Hispanic statements toward them. Victims obtained a peace order.
- The suspect shoved a female victim, then jumped onto a patio and attacked a male victim while making anti-Hispanic statements. Suspect was arrested.

## **AUGUST**

- The following three cases appear to be related due to the area in which they occurred, and the circumstances of the incidents:
  - A female victim reported she found a note card on the ground near her mailbox with anti-racial and anti-homosexual statements.
  - A male victim reported finding a notecard in his mailbox with another set of anti-racial and anti-homosexual statements.
  - A male victim reported finding a notecard in his mailbox with a separate set of anti-racial and anti-homosexual statements.
- A victim reported that someone had vandalized his car with spray paint, and that it appeared to be "KKK" written on the side. Multiple cars were vandalized that night, but no one else had anything similar to "KKK".
- Graffiti, including several swastikas, was discovered at a skate park.
- The victim reported that a subject had asked him and his boyfriend for a cigarette. After complying with the request, the subject issued an anti-homosexual threat toward them.
- The two victims were walking toward a park when a subject made an anti-Islamic statement toward them. One of the victims confronted the subject, who grabbed the victim and assaulted him.
- The victim reported that someone had spray painted "X-country=gay" at the end of the driveway. Later, the victim found an obscene photograph in the mailbox.
- A citizen reported that there was anti-Asian graffiti and swastikas painted on a guardrail.
- A concerned citizen dropped off three flyers found attached to the Masonic Lodge at the Rockville City Police Station.
- The victim reported that a subject had purposely struck her shopping cart with his car because of her race.
- A citizen reported that while taking a walk, she noticed someone had written "KKK" on the sidewalk in blue crayon.

## **SEPTEMBER**

- Rockville City PD received a call for an offensive sign promoting hate. A second report for a similar poster came in as the officer handled the first one. The officer located a third poster while handling the second call. Unknown suspect(s).
- A victim reported that she discovered a burned African American doll when she arrived at work. The victim believed it was directed towards her as retaliation by employees for reprimanding them. Suspects admitted to burning the doll but stated they did it out of boredom.
- A victim reported that anti-Semitic flyers were distributed throughout her neighborhood.
- Complainant reported that someone had written “KKK” on a Pepco electrical box.
- A police officer who had applied for a courtesy officer position began receiving solicitous text messages from an employee of the property. The officer notified management and then began receiving threatening messages, which also included racial epithets.
- A high school student reported to the SRO that another student had used a racial epithet when he walked by him.
- A swastika was discovered in a non-public restroom at a government office building.
- An SRO was notified that a student had discovered a racial epithet written on a science desk.

## **OCTOBER**

- A complainant reported that she discovered a small blue swastika on a piece of playground equipment at the park.
- A victim was assaulted by several students in school because he used a racial epithet when talking to another student.
- A high school principal reported that a disparaging anti-Sikh meme, modeled after a student in the school, was circulating across social media.
- The suspect was making derogatory statements about African Americans to a group of men, and then followed them into a restaurant, and lunged at one of the men.
- An elementary school principal reported that someone spray painted a racial epithet on the sidewalk in front of the school.
- The victim was assaulted by two suspects who had been gathered to watch another group of subjects fight each other. The victim believes he was targeted because of his sexual orientation.

## **NOVEMBER**

- A middle school principal reported that a student was discovered drawing swastikas on his desk.
- The police were called for an assault that had just occurred. Following an argument that involved the use of several anti-homophobic and anti-transgender slurs by one subject toward the other.
- High school security member reported that a racial epithet was discovered in a boys' bathroom stall.
- A victim reported receiving two anti-Islamic emails harassing her for her work on immigration policy.
- A high school principal and a teacher each received an email from a student's account containing racially charged language.
- A middle school teacher reported that a swastika was drawn on a desk.

## **DECEMBER**

- A high school teacher received a worksheet from a student with what appeared to be a swastika drawn at the top. A separate teacher reported finding a swastika drawn on a desk where the same student sits.
- Anti-Semitic graffiti was found in a high school boys' bathroom stall.
- A swastika was found on a wall in a high school boys' bathroom stall.
- Complainant reported that her brother was targeted in an anti-Semitic social media posting.
- The victim reported that a subject had used a racial epithet against him and spit on/toward him during a dispute over a parking space.
- The victim reported that she was shoved by a subject who had been taking pictures of people in a restaurant. When he tried to leave, she followed him and demanded that he erase the pictures. The subject shoved her and used an anti-homosexual slur and left.