

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020 ANNUAL REPORT ON BIAS INCIDENTS

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2020 M.C.P. Annual Report on Bias Incidents compiled by the Policy and Planning Division*

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am again disappointed to report an increase in bias crime incidents in Montgomery County. As we work to build our multicultural county with understanding, inclusion, and compassion, we have seen the trend for the past four years which is disturbing.

In 2020, there were 117 reported bias-incidents, 2.6% more than the number of bias-incidents reported in 2019 (114). This is the second-highest number of bias-related incidents reported to the M.C.P.D. since internal reporting processes changed in 2015, and 4.9% less than 2017 when 123 incidents were reported. On average, the department records 9.5 bias incidents per month.

We saw a great drop in school-based incidents due to the closure of schools. Similarly, we saw a significant decrease in the categories of offenders under the age of 18 (40%).

A substantial increase (153.8%) in offenders of unknown age was also noted, which could be attributed to activities such as vandalism, in which subjects are often not observed, or activities such as entering online meetings (Zoombombing) or social media platforms, in which subjects often use an alias to remain anonymous.

Of the 59 incidents motivated by bias towards a race, 67.8% (40) were considered anti-black. There were also seven multi-racial incidents (vandalism, intimidation), of which five referenced the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist groups.

Of the 39 incidents motivated by bias towards religion, 92.3% (36) were considered anti-Jewish, despite Jewish persons making up only 10% of the population.

Hate and prejudice have a profoundly negative impact on our community. No one should live in fear. That is why we encourage everyone to report hate crimes. The M.C.P.D. remains committed to upholding the civil and human rights of all of our residents.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. G. Jones".

Marcus G. Jones
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

"(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 the 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 F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reporting (U.C.R.) 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 U.C.R. 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

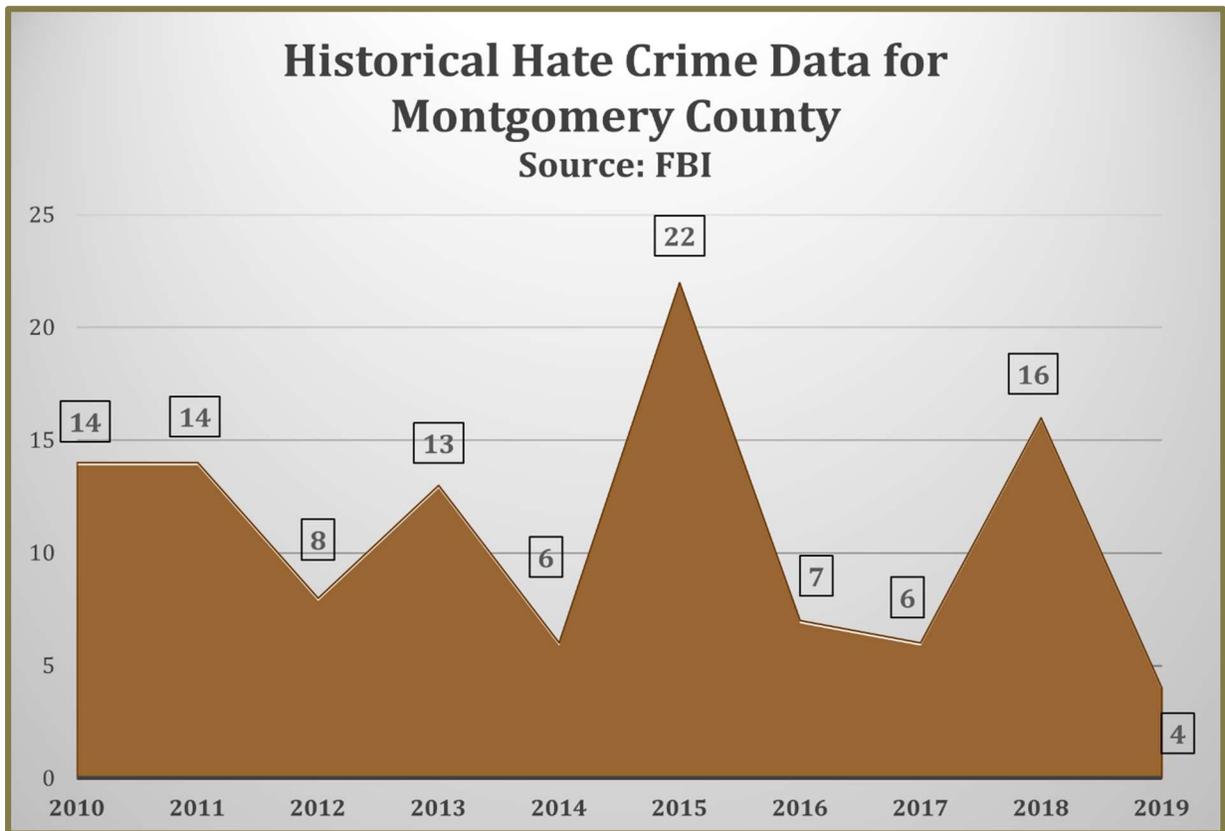
The Montgomery County Police Department's *Annual Report on Bias Incidents* is a report that provides statistical data about all of the incidents and criminal offenses that may be motivated by an offender's bias against a race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, mental or physical disability,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

In 2020, Section 10-304 of the Criminal Law Article was amended to include the 2nd Lieutenant Richard Collins, III's Law, which states physical assaults and destruction of property "motivated either in whole or substantial part" by hate bias against one of the protected classes. A second bill added Section 10-305.1 of the Criminal Law Article, which prohibits affixing or inscribing an item or symbol of hate, including an actual or depicted noose or swastika, on real or personal property that is publicly or privately owned without the express permission of the owner or occupant with the intent to threaten or intimidate any person or group of persons.

The Montgomery County Police Department voluntarily reports offense data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) under the Uniform Crime Reporting (U.C.R.) 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 applies 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 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 2020, the department recorded 117 bias incidents, including five Takoma Park incidents (the Montgomery County Police Department does not report Takoma Park incidents to the state or F.B.I.). This is a 2.6% increase over the 114 incidents reported in 2019. 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 levels. The following chart¹ illustrates the F.B.I.'s reporting of hate crimes occurring in Montgomery County. It is important to note that the F.B.I. only reports hate crimes; it does not track bias incidents.



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. Readers are cautioned against simplifying comparisons between multiple years, 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 track incidents accurately and establish trends.

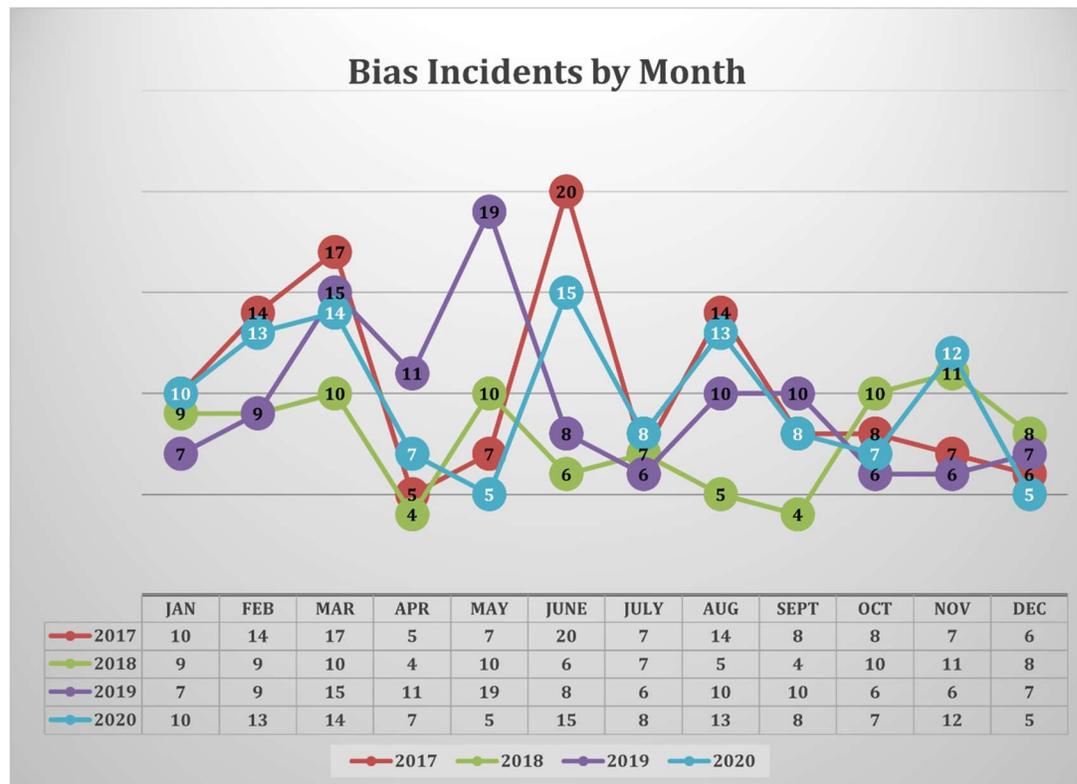
While many bias incidents may not constitute criminal acts, the M.C.P.D understands that acts demonstrating and/or depicting bias may lead to criminal acts and may profoundly impact the

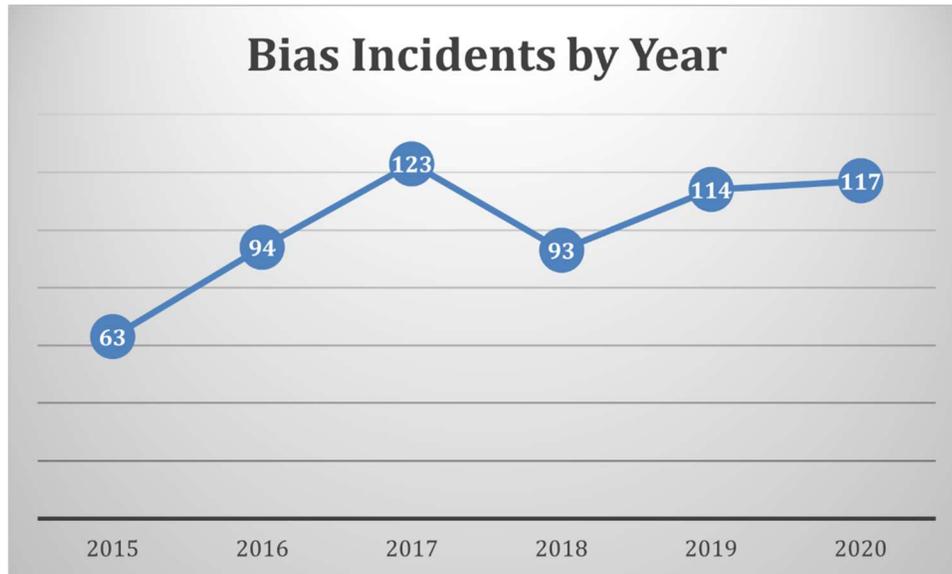
¹ Statistics compiled from the [FBI UCR Hate Crime website](#), last updated through 2019.

community. Montgomery County residents are encouraged to report all incidents, including non-criminal events, which may single out someone because of their perceived race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, or homelessness. This will allow the department 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.

REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS

There were 117 reported bias incidents in 2020, 2.6% more than the number of bias incidents reported in 2019 (114). This is the second-highest number of bias-related incidents reported to the M.C.P.D. since internal reporting processes changed in 2015, and only 4.9% less than 2017 when 123 incidents were reported. On average, the department records 9.8 bias incidents per month.





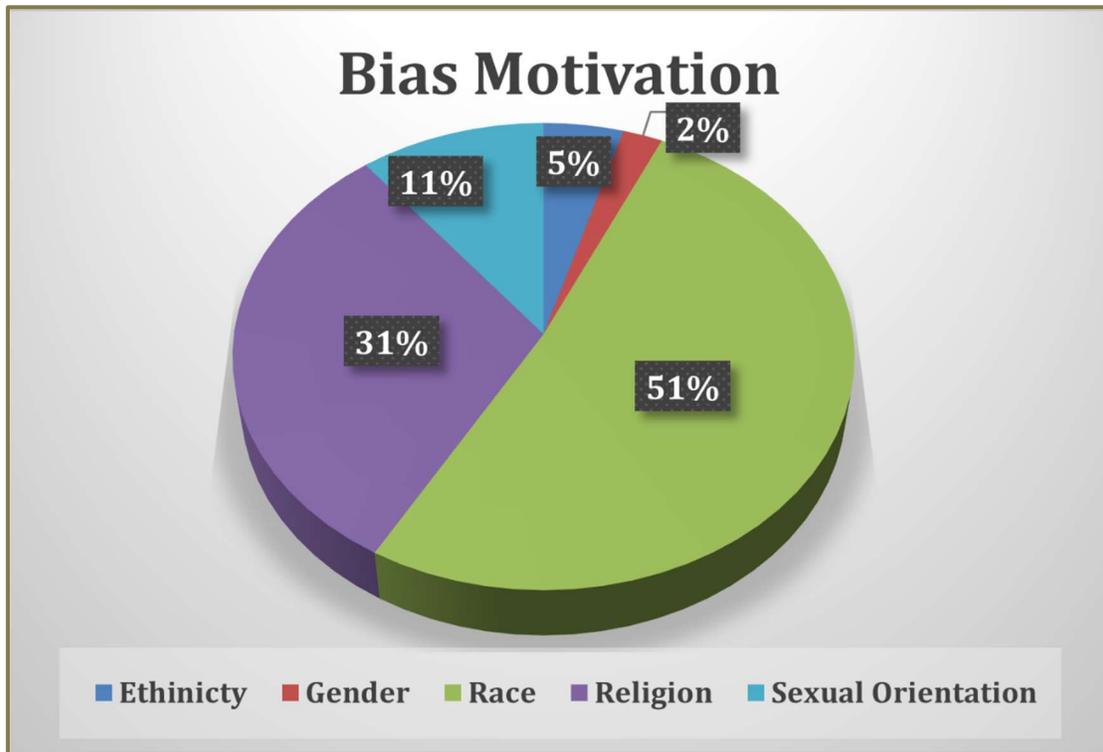
BIAS MOTIVATION

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 2020, more than 1.05 million people were living in Montgomery County.

Of the 117 total bias incidents that were recorded in 2020, thirteen incidents reflected multiple bias motivations. Race and religion continue to be the primary bias motivators (68 and 41 incidents, respectively), then sexual orientation (14 incidents), and ethnicity (6 incidents). Gender bias was a motivation in three incidents. Within these categories, the following points should be considered:

- Of the 39 incidents motivated by bias towards religion, 92.3 (36) were considered anti-Jewish, despite Jewish persons making up only 10% of the population². The next largest religious bias motivator was anti-Catholic, of which there were only two reports this year.
- Of the 59 incidents motivated by bias towards a race, 67.8% (40) were considered anti-black. There were also seven multi-racial incidents (vandalism, intimidation), of which five referenced the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist groups.
- Of the five incidents motivated by ethnicity bias, five were anti-Hispanic, a number consistent with the reported incidents in 2019.

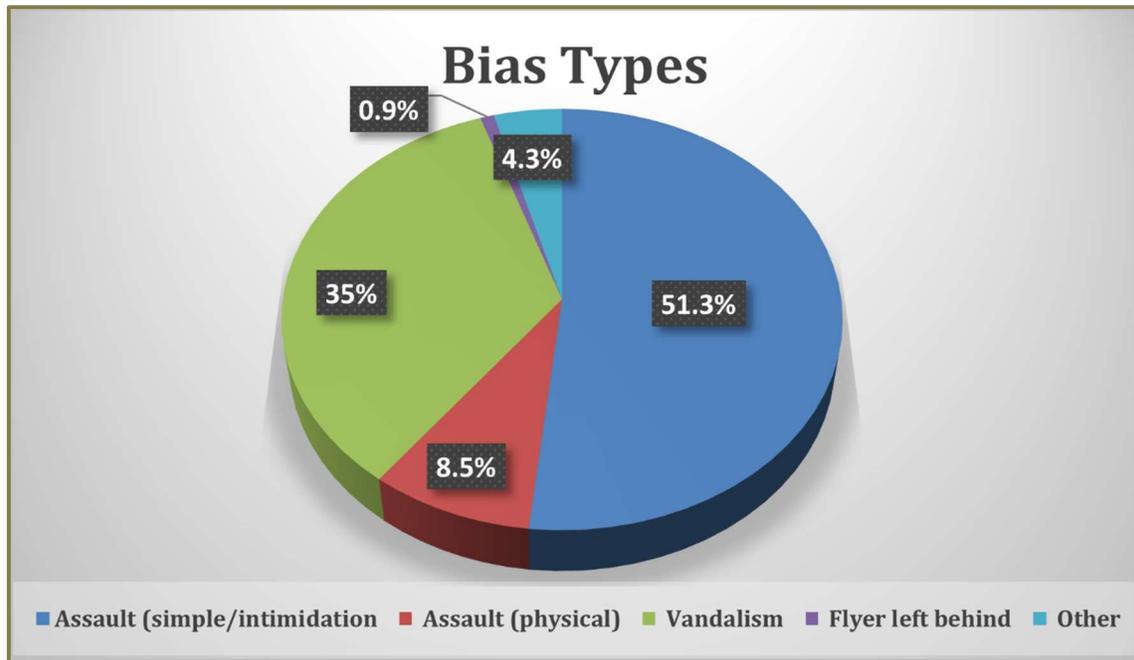
² The 2017 Greater Washington, DC Jewish Community Demographic Study (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.shalomdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/DCJewishCommunityStudy021118.pdf>



TYPES OF BIAS INCIDENTS

For statistical purposes, bias incidents are classified into additional categories that are separate and distinct from offense classifications.

Approximately 35% of the reported bias incidents fall into the category of vandalism/graffiti (41 incidents, 30.5% fewer than the number of vandalisms in 2019). This decline is likely due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, fifteen (36.5%) of the 41 reported vandalism incidents occurred in or near a school. The most frequent type of vandalism/graffiti reported continues to be the swastika and other anti-Semitic phrases/statements, particularly in schools. Anti-homosexual and racial epithets are also frequently reported, both in and out of the schools.



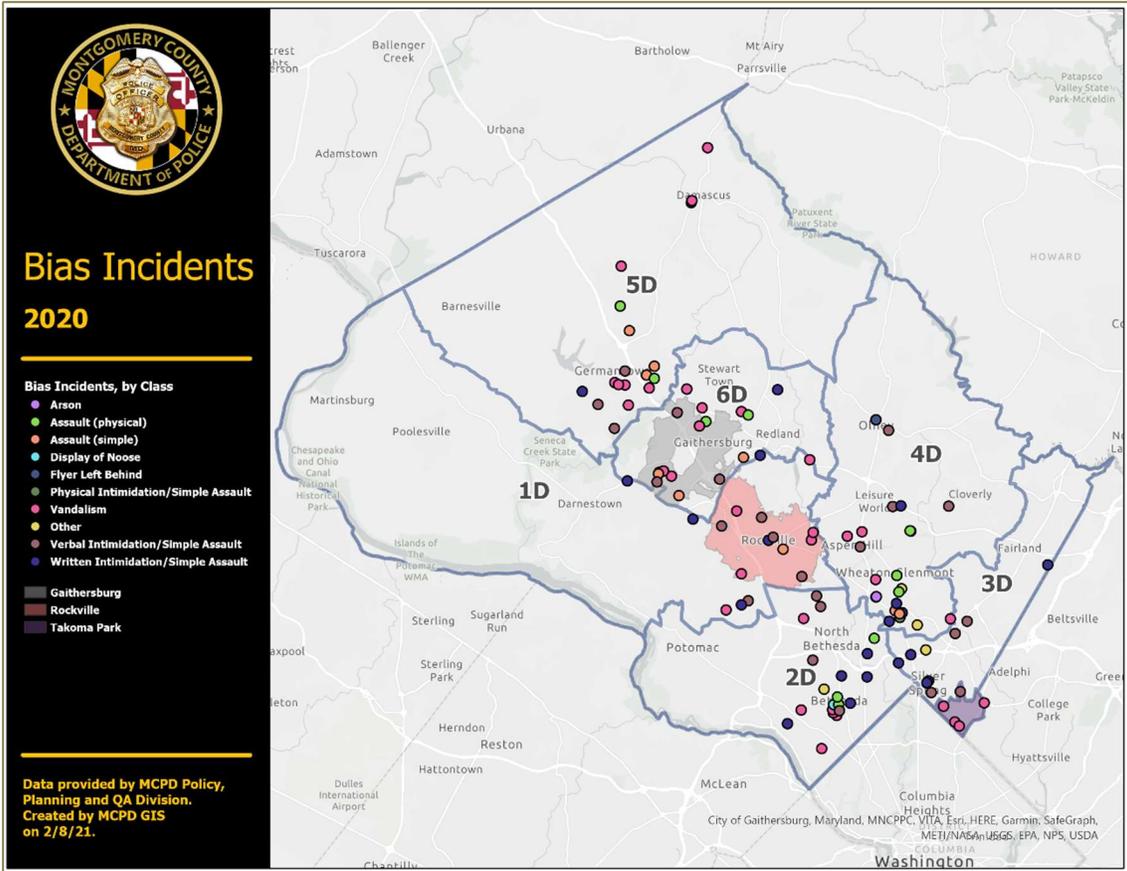
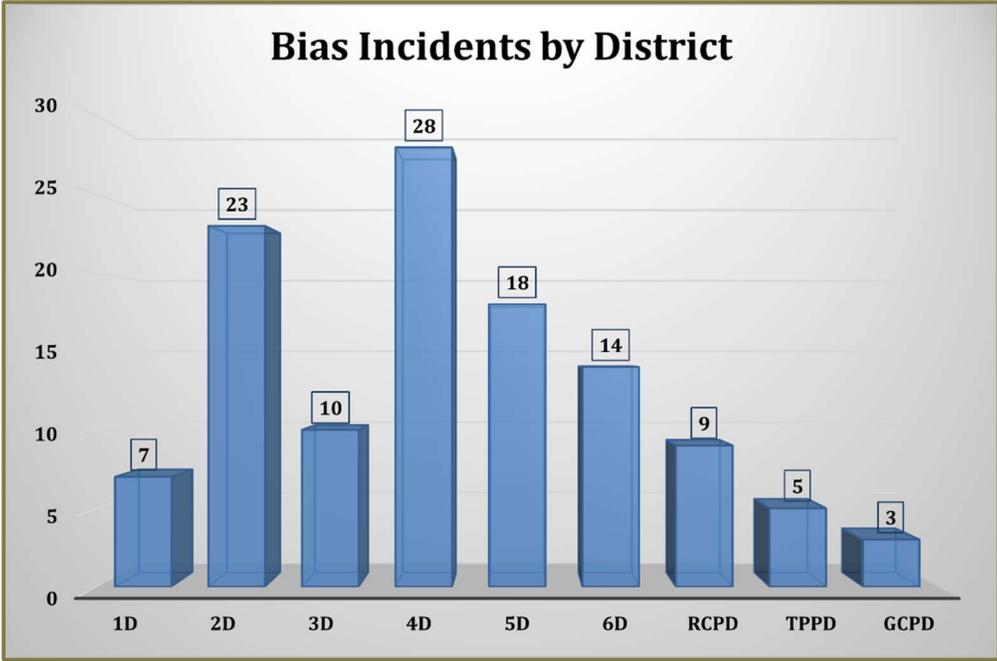
Verbal intimidation (21.4%) followed by written intimidation (20.5%) were the next most frequent types of bias incidents reported. Overall, there were 60 incidents involving some form of intimidation (this category is represented as *Assault (Simple/Intimidation)* in the graph above). This includes the use of a noose to intimidate in one incident. Social media and/or electronic mail use continues to be a contributing factor in many of the intimidation incidents; 18 of the 49 intimidation reports (36.7%) involved threats or bias-based language directed towards an individual or an organization. Six incidents involved the emerging trend of "Zoomboming." Zoomboming is a type of cyber-harassment in which an individual or a group of unwanted and uninvited users interrupt online meetings over the Zoom video-conferencing application. This disruption occurs when intruders gate-crash gatherings - sometimes for malicious purposes, such as sharing pornographic or hate images or shouting offensive language - without the host's permission.³

³ Zoomboming definition. Retrieved from <https://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/Zoomboming>

The number of physical assaults reported in 2020 (10 assaults, 12 victims) showed decreases (23.1% and 14.3% respectively) from the numbers reported in 2019 (13 assaults, 14 victims). Six of the twelve victims were Hispanic.

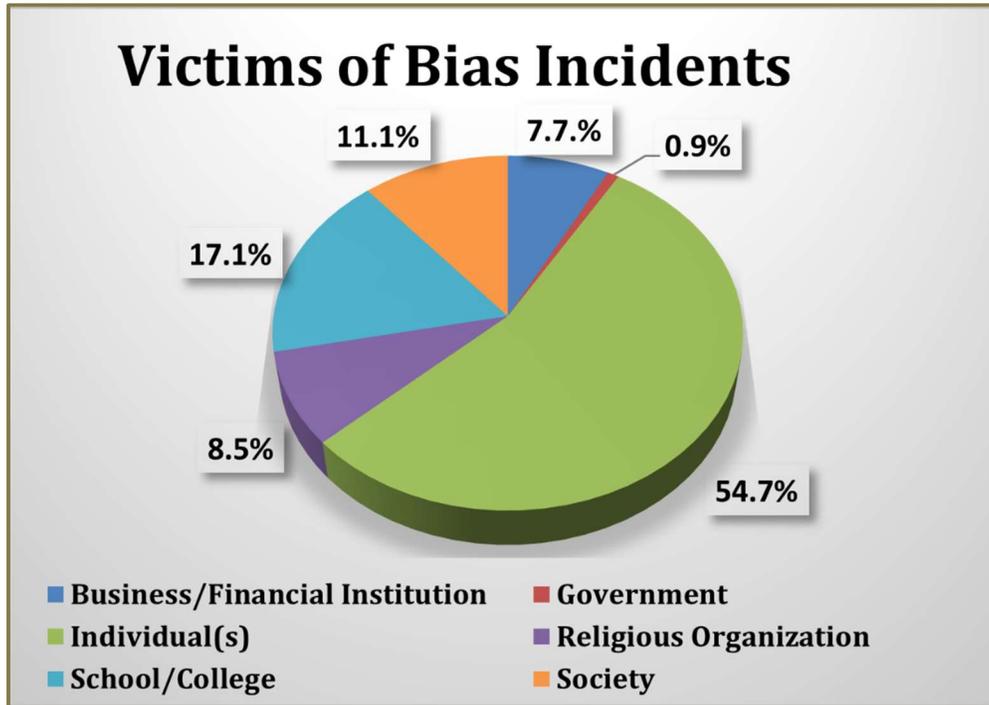
INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

The 4th and 2nd Districts experienced the highest reported bias incidents with 28 and 23, respectively. These two districts account for 44% of the reported incidents. The number of reported bias incidents increased in district 3D to 10 (+67%), in district 5D to 18 (+28%), and in district 6D to 14 (+113%). The charts illustrate these figures on the next page.



VICTIMS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

Of the 117 incidents reported in 2020, 64 incidents were committed against individuals (54.7%); six (6) of those incidents had multiple victims. Overall, there were 75 individual victims of bias incidents in 2020. The remaining incidents were committed against schools, society, business/financial institutions, religious organizations, and government entities.



The number of incidents in which the school was the victim or target of a bias incident (e.g., vandalism) decreased by 23% from 2019 (26) to 2020 (20). This is most likely attributed to students attending virtual classes from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Quarantine and shutdown restrictions were also a likely contributor to a 43.5% decrease in which society was the victim; twenty-three incidents were reported in 2019, but only thirteen in 2020.

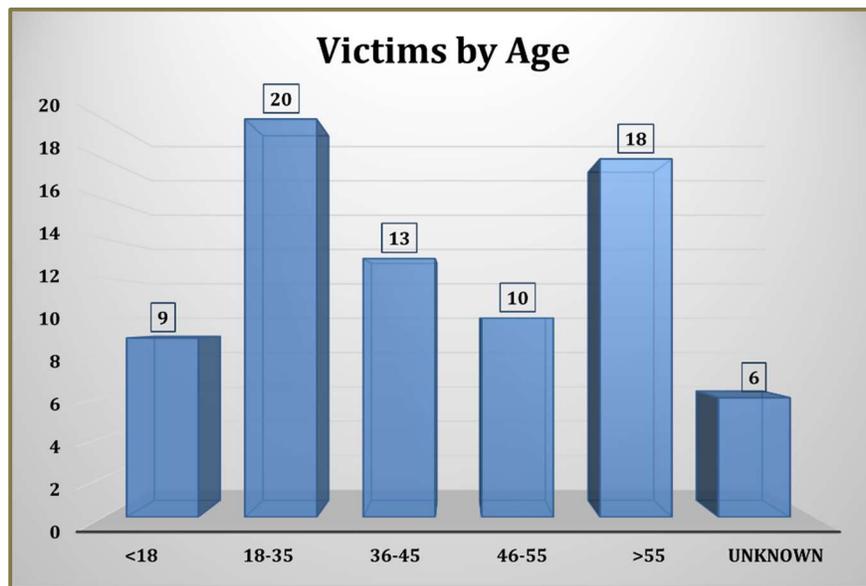
Alternatively, the number of incidents in which religious organizations were named victims increased considerably in 2020 (150%). The increase from 4 in 2019 to 10 in 2020 may be attributed to the rising national trend of religious organizations being targeted. The F.B.I. reported that in 2019, hate crimes in the U.S. rose to the highest level in over a decade, including a 7% increase in religion-based hate crimes.⁴ Furthermore, five incidents involved Zoom and/or social media and were likely an outcome of adaptations to provide religious services virtually amid shutdown restrictions. There was one case involving arson, in which the subject was arrested and charged using the hate crime statute.

⁴ Statistics compiled from the [FBI UCR Hate Crime website](#).

Victim Demographics

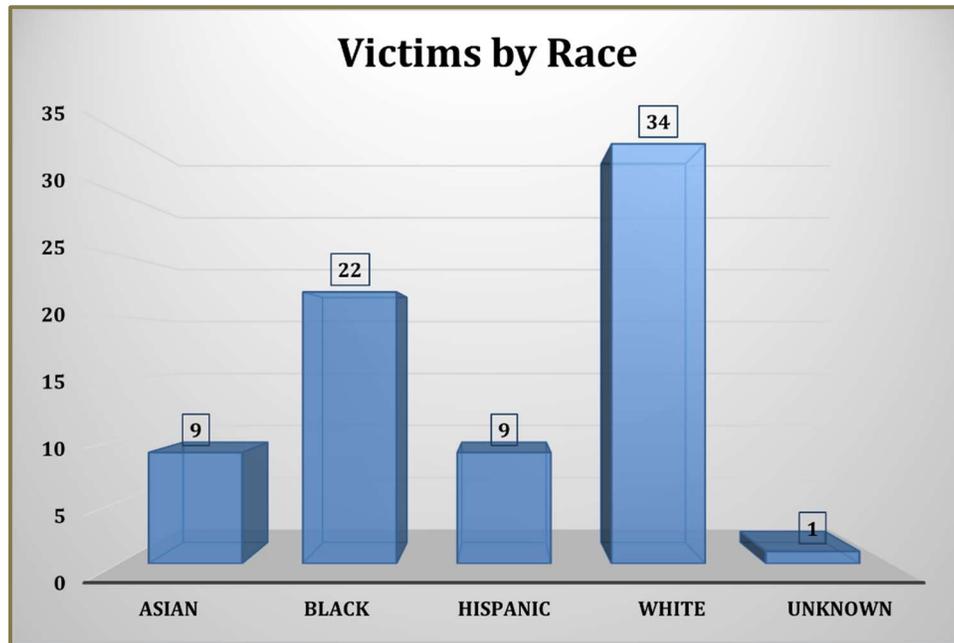
Amongst those cases in which specific individuals were victims (75 victims, total), there were 31 female victims and 44 male victims.

Of the individual victims identified, 26.3% were between 18 and 35, consistent with 2019. There was a decline in the percentage of victims under 18. However, percentages increased for victims ages 35 and above. Despite a brief decline in 2019, the category of victims over 55 years of age was again on the rise in 2020 and historically has remained one of the highest victim age categories.



Despite contrary proportions in 2019, 42.6% of the individual victims identified as white, while 29.3% identified as black. It is important to distinguish that although several incidents involve the widely used yet derogatory term for persons of color, victims described as black were victims of incidents that were also anti-religious (Islamic), anti-homosexual, and anti-transgender.

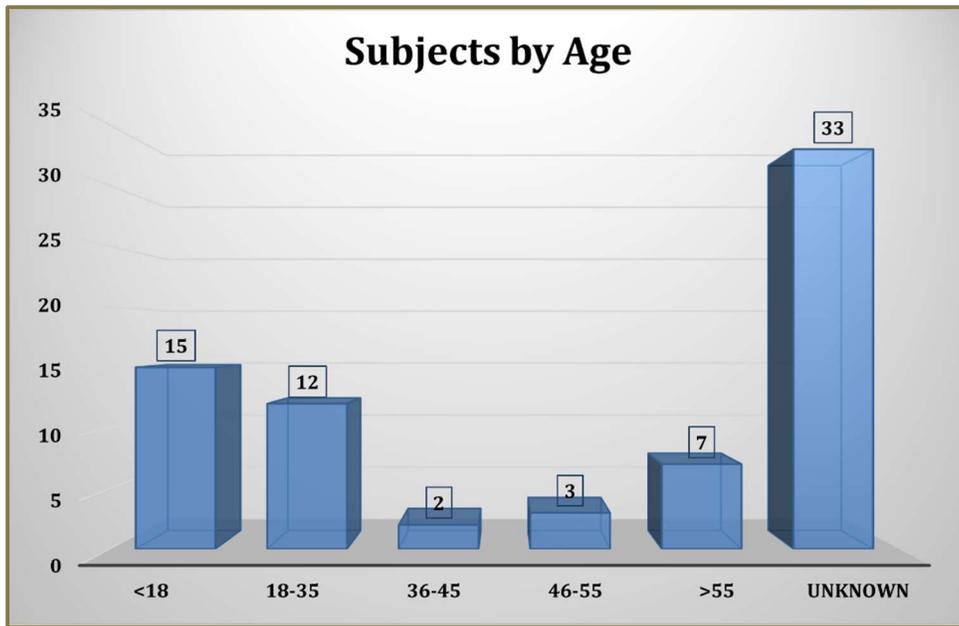
The number of Asian victims in 2020 remained consistent with 2019 statistics, but Hispanic victims increased by 350% from two in 2019 to nine, mostly anti-Hispanic and anti-homosexual incidents.



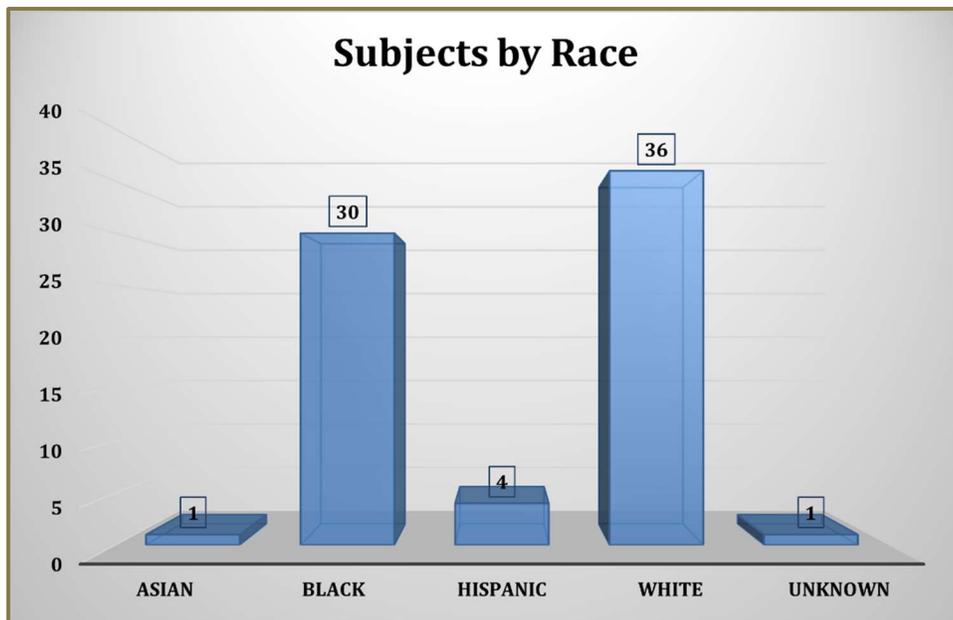
OFFENDERS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

It is often very difficult to identify suspects of bias incidents, as many occur without any witnesses present. Moreover, many bias incidents occur without the victim present, as in bias-motivated graffiti or vandalism. In 2020, victims could provide suspect information in 29% of the 117 incidents (34), most of which were for some type of intimidation. There was partial suspect information provided in eighteen additional incidents. It was later determined that the subjects in three separate pairs of incidents were likely the same people. Overall, there were 72 subjects developed and/or identified in these 52 incidents. The subjects of these incidents continue to be predominantly male (56). Seventeen subjects (fourteen males and three females) were arrested, closing eleven cases.

Additional demographics of the 72 subjects (including partial-descriptions) are presented in the next two charts.



There were significant decreases in the categories of offenders under the age of 18 (40%) and offenders between the ages of 36 and 45 (71.4%). A substantial increase (153.8%) in offenders of unknown age was also noted. This could be attributed to vandalism activities, in which subjects are often not observed, or activities such as entering online meetings ("Zoombombing") or social media platforms, in which subjects often use an alias to remain anonymous.



Historically, the M.C.P.D. has recorded more white offenders involved in bias-related incidents than any other race/ethnicity. This was consistent in 2020, although there was a 5.3% decrease in reported white offenders. Black offenders increased by 66.7%.

EDUCATION & 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. The [Montgomery County Office of Human Rights](#) helps create a culture of service and climate of fairness and inclusion at the county government's highest levels. It promotes trust and inclusiveness amongst minority communities through outreach and engagement, such as through the [Committee on Hate/Violence](#), an advisory group that educates residents about bias/hate and promotes respect for cultural and social diversity.

Other organizations, such as the [Faith Community Advisory Council](#), a part of the Office of Community Partnerships, work hard to ensure the County Executive is well informed and able to act effectively in responding to the needs and concerns of faith communities throughout the county.

It is also important for the police department to work closely within the community to confront hatred and overcome the fear and mistrust that may exist since bias crimes are more likely to create or exacerbate tension or conflict. Communication and interaction are often key factors in preventing tension or restoring peace. Every interaction with the public is an opportunity to build relationships and trust with the community. The department's Public Information Division helps prevent an increase in tension throughout the community by informing public attitudes about such incidents, the offenders, and the law enforcement response. The M.C.P.D. Community Engagement Division, which oversees community and school resource officers, ensures that investigative follow-up, victim assistance (when applicable), and collaboration are provided in all bias-motivated events to mitigate bias hate the community immediately.

2020 proved to be a year of unpredictability and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Quarantine restrictions at businesses and religious organizations and the temporary closure of schools significantly impacted the number of community events held within the county. As opposed to 2019, when 2,090 events were held, the M.C.P.D. attended only 981 community events in 2020, many of which were held virtually. Montgomery County police officers and command staff were present at 165 (33%) community engagement events and 152 school events (30.6%) in light of quarantine limitations. M.C.P.D. was also present at various townhall-style events, training/prevention programs and engaged 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., African American and Hispanic committees, faith communities, etc.).

Although many community organizations seek to promote acceptance and respect and build relationships with those of different religious, racial, and other backgrounds, creating a more just and balanced community, many opportunities remain to combat bias and stereotypes that lead to bias incidents. 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. That is why the M.C.P.D. encourages all community members and organizations to report any incident in which some perceived bias element is present. The M.C.P.D. is committed to ensuring equity, opportunity, and inclusion for all people of Montgomery County. Hate and prejudice have a profound impact on our

community, and no one should live in fear. The M.C.P.D. will not tolerate intolerance, exclusion, indifference, or open intimidation and asks that everyone report any incident of bias or hate crime.

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 impacts an individual victim but can affect an entire group to whom the individual belongs, resulting in increased isolation, stress, and vulnerability. Timely and effective police response can have a very positive and lasting impact on the police and various communities' relationship, influencing other public safety aspects.

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 M.C.P.D. 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 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 Captain 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.

The Montgomery County Police Department receives numerous reports involving inappropriate activity conducted through social media outlets (Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram, etc.), including bullying and other threatening behavior that displays indifference, discrimination, and hatred towards both specific individuals and groups of people. Although this is perpetuated by subjects of all ages, the MCPD frequently receives reports of social media improprieties involving middle and high school students.

Parents, while you may not be able to monitor all your child's activities, there are things you can do to prevent cyberbullying and protect your child from harmful digital behavior:

- Establish rules about appropriate digital behavior, content, and applications.
- Monitor your child's social media sites, applications, and browsing history.
- Follow or friend your teen on social media sites or have another trusted adult do so.
- Know your child's user names and passwords for email and social media.
- Review or reset your child's phone location and privacy settings.

Parents who want to protect their children from cyberbullying, harmful digital behavior, and exposure to adult content can use parental controls and monitoring software, such as *Bark*, *Qustodio*, or *WebWatcher*, to help them set up systems that are less invasive to their children.

Montgomery County residents are encouraged to call their district station and speak to a Community Services Officer for strategies to prevent cyberbullying, or visit StopBullying.gov for tips on recognizing it.

Montgomery County Police Department District Stations

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

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

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF 2020 BIAS INCIDENTS

JANUARY

- Unknown subject(s) vandalized a victim's car with Anti-Homosexual graffiti.
- Victims were repeatedly harassed by unknown subjects at a nightclub party and asked to leave by the club's bouncer. The victims believed they were targeted due to their race (Anti-White).
- A victim reported his car tire had been slashed following a confrontation with three subjects in another vehicle that had been blocking a parking space. The subjects also made an aggressive Anti-Homosexual remark toward the victim during the altercation.
- A complainant reported that business cards advertising an Anti-Semitic movement were found inside some books. Additional cards were found in the area.
- A victim reported his neighbor shouted threats and Anti-Jewish profanities at him as he left his house.
- Two male subjects were overheard at a gym making threats and Anti-Homosexual comments about another gym member.
- The complainant reported Anti-Islamic religious paraphernalia was left at the front door of her residence.
- A victim was approached at a bus stop by a woman, who called him an Anti-Black racial epithet and attempted to assault him. The victim retaliated in self-defense. The female subject claimed injury, and both parties were advised of their right to apply for charges.
- High school security reported to an S.R.O. an image of a swastika drawn backward on the desk. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- A victim reported receipt of harassing text messages containing anti-homosexual and Anti-Black language following a complaint he filed against a co-worker who had been making untruthful statements. The victim alleged the co-worker sent the messages using the Pinger App to disguise his phone number. The victim was referred to the Commissioner's Office should he wish to pursue further action.

FEBRUARY

- A middle school administrator reported that two female restrooms had been vandalized, both with the same message written in pencil. The message contained an Anti-Black racial epithet. School security reviewed video surveillance footage, but no suspects were developed.
- A juvenile male victim was stabbed in the hand with a classmate's pen after the suspect made Anti-Homosexual comments, and the victim retaliated. The victim's parents initiated a school conference and reported the incident to the police. The school mediated between the students and the parents declined follow-up by police.
- A church pastor reported an increase in Anti-Female and Anti-Black social media posts by a parish member. The subject admitted he was upset that a female had been appointed to a leadership role and that her points of view conflicted with his own biblical beliefs. The subject had no intention of harming the victim; he was simply expressing his opinions. The Mobile Crisis Team met with the subject and determined no psychological evaluation was needed.
- A middle school administrator reported that a swastika was found in one of the boy's restrooms. The school attempted to identify the subjects. [Anti-Jewish]
- A middle school teacher discovered a swastika drawn in pencil on one of the desks. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- A middle school administrator reported that another swastika had been drawn in pencil in a boy's bathroom. A suspect was identified and confessed to drawing the image. The subject's parents were notified, and the student was suspended. [Anti-Jewish]
- The victim reported being physically assaulted by a female subject in a crowded parking lot, following a verbal altercation in which the subject used Anti-Asian racial epithets and stated, "this is what happens when [name of National politician] is in charge." The victim verbally retaliated and was punched in the side of her face by the subject. The subject denied the allegations. Security video was reviewed. No indictment was made.
- A complainant reported an Anti-Black racial epithet spray-painted on a stop sign below the word "Stop." Unknown subject(s).
- Police were alerted to Anti-White graffiti written in yellow chalk in a park. The offended complainant was no longer present when police arrived on the scene.
- High school security was notified of graffiti on a table containing swastikas and language referring to potential gun violence toward the school. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- A high school administrator reported an inappropriate social media post by a student using anti-Jewish images. The subject was a member of a school program, which was in a feud with a rival school program and had made a poor choice in the imagery used to compare the two programs.
- A middle school administrator reported a swastika and curse words had been written on a toilet paper holder in a boy's bathroom stall. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]

- An elementary school administrator was alerted by a student to Anti-Black graffiti written, in what appeared to be glue, on hardscaping stones adjacent to the playground. Unknown subject(s).

MARCH

- A complainant reported the image of a noose and an Anti-Black racial epithet spray-painted on a walking trail adjacent to high school tennis courts. A suspect was identified and arrested in connection with another vandalism at the school.
- With an Asian houseguest and several Asian neighbors, the complainant received two threatening letters indicating an Anti-Asian connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. Neither letter had a return address or specific recipient. Unknown subject(s).
- A female complainant initially reported two unknown females attacked her as she attempted to investigate noise from a neighbor's apartment. Investigation revealed the complainant began kicking her neighbor's door. As the door opened, the complainant yelled Anti-Hispanic epithets at the victim and told her to go back to her own country. When the victim told her to leave, the complainant assaulted the victim, and the victim dragged the complaint out of her apartment. A witness corroborated the story, and the complainant was arrested for burglary.
- A high school student and librarian reported to an S.R.O. that unknown subjects had tampered with computer keyboard keys to spell out "K.K.K." [Anti-Multi-Racial] and Anti-Homosexual curse words.
- The complainant reported several unknown subjects rang his doorbell, called him an Anti-Black racial epithet, and then ran away. Investigation revealed further evidence that led officers to believe the subjects were not targeting specific individuals but just interested in creating havoc.
- A middle school administrator reported that two female students discovered a swastika and an Anti-Jewish message written on tiles in the girl's bathroom. Unknown subject(s).
- A complainant reported to an officer on patrol that a car pulled up alongside her as she was walking down the street, and a person called her an Anti-Black racial epithet. She was not able to describe the car or driver. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported that she had been verbally assaulted and spit at by the suspect. The victim, president of an H.O.A., was investigating and photographing violations involving the subject's multiple vehicles when the subject called her Anti-Semitic slurs, spit at her, and followed her when she retreated to her house. The suspect was arrested, and a peace order was issued.
- The subject from the above incident returned to the scene, despite the peace order, and drove his vehicle, displaying two swastikas, into the victim's yard. The subject was charged with multiple offenses. [Anti-Jewish]
- The victim reported being approached by five unknown male subjects, who called him an Anti-Hispanic racial epithet, and three of the five men assaulted him. Numerous attempts to contact the victim to continue the investigation were unsuccessful.

- Several complainants reported that the same subject called them Anti-Jewish epithets on multiple occasions. Complainants noted that they believed he was bi-polar or had some other form of mental illness. Officers warned the subject about harassing communications and advised complainants on how to obtain a peace order.
- The security coordinator for a temple notified police about an unknown subject in the group's chat room who recently changed his profile to "Christ Killer." This concerned the group since the online platform is used to arrange meetings and other activities. [Anti-Jewish]
- A complainant reported graffiti spray-painted on a Jewish building wall with anti-Jewish language and curse words, along with swastikas and diagrams of male genitalia. A press release with video evidence was published, and numerous tips identified the subject, who was arrested a few days later.
- A church employee reported spray-painted graffiti on their sign depicting a pentagram and other occult-type drawings, along with pictures of male genitalia and the word "rape." A nearby speed limit sign had also been knocked over and sprayed painted. Another victim reported had the same blue paint and had pictures and words referring to male and female genitalia. Video footage captured a vehicle, but the subjects remain unknown. [Anti-Religious]

APRIL

- Complainants from a Jewish congregation were conducting a meeting via Zoom when two individuals joined the meeting and made inappropriate noises and anti-Semitic slurs. Unknown subject(s).
- The business owner victim reported a client called him Anti-Black and Anti-Hispanic racial epithets after asking the client to pay an overdue bill. The subject also threatened physical assault. The victim did not wish to pursue charges, but the subject was served with a trespass notice.
- A complainant reported a swastika drawn on a P.E.P.C.O. telephone pole. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- Two subjects were arrested for setting several small fires around a church. [Anti-Catholic]
- A complainant reported that the subject challenged her to debate political views on a social media platform. When she declined, the subject made Anti-Homosexual and Anti-Semitic remarks toward her. The victim is openly bi-sexual but not Jewish.
- During an online Holocaust Remembrance event hosted on Zoom, several unknown subjects joined the meeting, made anti-Semitic statements, and posted images of Hitler, male genitalia, and swastikas. [Anti-Jewish]
- A church reported vandalism with several diagrams of pentagrams, "666", and upside-down crosses. The same church had been a victim of arson earlier in the month, but the subject from that incident was still incarcerated. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Catholic]

MAY

- The victim reported being poked in the face by a subject who became agitated while in line at a grocery store. The subject used Anti-Black racial epithets toward the victim and cashier.
- After finding a package containing an assortment of pills and tin foil under his windshield wiper, a complainant contacted the police. He also reported two previous incidents of two milk jugs left at the end of his driveway. Upon researching the significance of these items, the complainant found they were tactics used by white supremacist groups. The victim did not believe he was specifically targeted. [Anti-Black]
- The complainant reported being harassed on social media for being gay and was concerned for his safety after one of the messages contained a firearm. Copies of the messages were provided to the police. Upon investigation, no threat or elements of bias/hate were present. The complainant was advised on how to pursue a peace order if he still felt threatened. [Anti-Homosexual]
- M.C.P.D. was made aware of an incident that an unknown individual filmed. An altercation occurred between a male subject and an unknown female, to whom the male subject made Anti-Asian remarks. The male was identified by his vehicle registration and was known by police. A C.I.T. officer interviewed him via phone rather than in person because he did not want to be taken to the hospital. He displayed manic behavior. The victim did not come forward, and no criminal charges were filed. C.I.T. has remained in contact with the subject to ensure he gets the help needed.
- A father reported that his autistic teenage son was robbed by several juveniles who repeatedly bullied him for being gay. The victim met the subjects in a garage to go skateboarding, but they assaulted him and took his backpack. Three of the four subjects were identified and arrested for assault, robbery, and charged with the hate crime statute.

JUNE

- MCPD was notified of graffiti at a bus stop where a swastika, phallic depiction, and Anti-Black racial epithets were written in what appeared to be a permanent black marker. Unknown subject(s).
- A witness called 911 after watching an unknown male subject hit a male victim on the head with "hammer fists" while the victim and his wife were walking down the street. [Anti-White]
- A property manager reported that an employee discovered Anti-Black graffiti on the front of the building. A witness reported seeing a subject perform the graffiti.
- A middle administrator reported concerns from parents over threats posted on social media. The subject had posted several threads, including an Anti-Black racial epithet. After another student requested removing the racist posts, the subject responded with threats of gun violence. Police investigation revealed the subject had no means to commit such violence, and his response was to scare other students off his page. Both students were advised to block each other and have no further contact.
- A pedestrian reported seeing graffiti in a visitor parking space and on a tow sign, which included "3, " a swastika, and curse words. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]

- A victim's car was broken into, and cash was stolen. During an unreported 2019 break-in to her vehicle, a confederate flag was drawn on the hood. After the second break-in, the victim believes she was targeted due to her race. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Black]
- Graffiti painted in big yellow letters on the side of a high school shed, and the ground near the shed included Anti-Black epithets and a symbol appearing to be a noose. Two students turned themselves in to the police and confessed they painted the graffiti because they wanted to see the school's name in the news. They felt remorse and wanted to cover up the graffiti but could not find more paint. All three subjects were charged with malicious destruction of property.
- The victim reported that while in the parking lot of a pharmacy, an unknown subject pushed her from behind, and the victim fell to the ground, sustaining minor lacerations on her face. The victim had been putting on her face mask, and the subject yelled, "your life doesn't matter," before assaulting her. No video surveillance was available. Unknown subject. [Anti-Asian]
- A complainant reported graffiti written on a pole below a "do not park" sign. The graffiti said, "Go [National politician's name]" in green letters and below that "K.K.K." in black letters. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Multi-Racial]
- A middle school administrator reported a threatening online photograph posted by a student. The suspect was pointing an orange barreled toy gun at the camera and holding a knife in his teeth. The caption of the photo included Anti-Black racial epithets and threatening language.
- A complainant reported that he found a symbol spray-painted with black paint on his business's rear exterior wall. An internet search (adl.org) revealed that the symbol was a Wolfsangel (AKA: Wolf's Hook; Doppelhaken). Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- The victim reported that when she pulled into a parking spot, the subject's body "bumped" her vehicle, prompting her to tell him not to touch her car. The subject responded by calling the victim an Anti-Black racial epithet, spit at her, and told her to go back to Africa. The victim took photos of the subject and his vehicle. An employee who witnessed the incident reported the subject was upset after being refused entry to the business due to his lack of face mask. Detectives identified the subject, who admitted using the racial slur and was remorseful for the incident.
- After a parking lot traffic altercation, the victim attempted to apologize to the suspect while inside a business. The subject became irate, argumentative and slapped the victim's coffee cup off a table, striking the victim's hand and stomach with the cup. As the situation escalated, the victim called 911, and another individual filmed the altercation, and the suspect made Anti-White comments. The video was posted on social media and received over 100 comments, some of which identified the victim, where she lived, and commented about causing her harm.
- A victim was doing yard work when the subject/neighbor began yelling and calling him an Anti-Hispanic racial epithet. The victim had an existing peace order against the subject. The subject stated the victim provoked him by going on his property and spitting. A witness told police the victim frequently provoked the other neighbor. The primary aggressor was not

able to be determined.

- The complainant attended a Zoom church service when an unknown subject entered the Zoom video chat, began using racial slurs, Anti-Christian speech, and played a song that spewed hate and racial slurs. The speech went on for several minutes until the Zoom chat was closed. The investigation revealed that the church had a very diverse group of parishioners. The subject was unfamiliar to everyone in the chat and was not a member of the church community.

JULY

- The complainant reported that dirt and a banana had been left on his vehicle. He previously saw a juvenile near his car and thought he saw the child throw something. The complainant also mentioned an ongoing dispute with the management of his housing development. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Black]
- An officer responded to a vandalism report on signs and found that two-directional signs had been spray painted. One said "B.L.M.," and one said "K.K.K." Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Multi-Racial]
- Police responded to a report of an assault. When arriving in their parking lot, the victim and his wife were met by a neighbor who was yelling at them (referencing Putin), hit the victim's car with their hands, and spit on the victims. The victim believed the neighbor's actions were bias-related (Anti-Russian). Police identified the subject but were unable to make contact. Police advised the victim on how to obtain a protective order.
- A victim reported that numerous items on her property had been damaged, and she felt the incidents were racially motivated. The victim stated she heard a female voice, possibly her neighbor, making Anti-Black statements outside her residence the previous night. The victim was advised to get a security camera and notify police if further information is obtained.
- A property management company reported that someone had spray-painted a swastika and unknown writings on the development entrance monument. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- Officers were dispatched to a high school for a Nazi S.S. symbol report, which was observed near the tennis courts. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- The victim reported that she was in a store to copy a form that contained her personal information (name, social security number, and phone number). A store employee used an email to send the document to the printer. After returning home, the victim received an unknown FaceTime call, which she denied, and responded by text asking who the caller was. The unknown subject responded with a racially suggestive alias. The victim explained it was wrong, but the subject continued to respond and commented about "hurting her" and mentioned her specifically by name. The victim blocked the number but was later notified by the cell service provider that someone tried to access her account. The victim was unsure whether this incident was coincidental or if her personal information had been compromised at or by the store.
- A concerned citizen reported to officers that someone had written "K.K.K." on a maintenance

hole cover with chalk. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Multi-Racial]

AUGUST

- A complainant reported to police that while watching a wedding via Zoom, unknown subject(s) joined the broadcast and began posting pornography and videos of people being killed and making aggressive Anti-Semitic statements. Officers responded to the address of the wedding and confirmed all attendees were safe. The Zoom event coordinator was able to remove the hackers as soon as he became aware of it.
- A building services manager reported blue spray paint graffiti containing an Anti-Homosexual slur, and in two separate areas, someone had painted a penis. Unknown subject(s).
- A victim reported that four unknown males approached him outside a convenience store and asked him to buy them cigarettes, to which he refused. The subjects asked the victim where he was from, and he told them he was German and Egyptian. They began asking if he was a Nazi, racist, or Hitler. The victim was offended and walked away. The males threw a bottle at him, hit him in the back of the head with a bat, and punched him in the face. The victim managed to get up and get away. [Anti-White]
- A complainant reported receiving an anonymous letter addressed to her but no return address, which included comments about her interracial marriage, two photos referencing slavery ("house slaves vs. field slaves"), and comments reminding the victim of her racial heritage. The victim and her husband had never had problems with any of the neighbors and were unsure who sent the letter. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Black]
- The victim reported that a female driver began yelling at her in the drive-thru of a fast-food restaurant. The driver gave her the finger and continued to curse. The victim walked back to ask her what the issue was, to which the subject stated that the victim cut her off. The victim explained that was not the case. As the victim walked back to her car, the subject called her a racial epithet and told her to "go back from where she came from." The victim felt this was bias-related and gave a description of the car and driver to the police. The registered owner of the vehicle matched the description of the driver, who used Anti-Black racial epithets.
- A road-rage incident was reported to police by a victim who stated another vehicle was driving erratically and nearly struck him. The driver yelled, "go back home, stop stealing our jobs." The driver followed the victim's vehicle into a parking lot and drove around him in his vehicle a few times, continuing to yell. The victim was able to give identifying information to the police. [Anti-Asian]
- Two victims were sitting in the parking lot when a neighbor backed in nearby and told them they were in his parking spot, then told them to go back to their own country. The victim alleged the neighbor crossed the street to his house, got a shotgun, and threatened to kill them both. When police interviewed the subject, he stated that the victim told him to go back to Africa and threatened him with a knife. The subject also stated he was holding a broomstick in the victim's photo, not a shotgun. [Anti-Hispanic]
- A school administrator reported that two suspects were captured on video spray-painting graffiti at the school. There were numerous images of male genitalia on the sidewalk and

directly in front of the main door. Anti-Homosexual statements were written.

- Police responded to a complainant's home following the discovery of a suspicious substance on his front door handle, in and on the mailbox, and his two vehicles' handles. The substance was determined to be a mixture of household cleanser and red pepper. The complainant believed he was targeted because of the L.G.B.T.Q. flags and B.L.M. signs he had displayed. He also noted that he had had ideological differences with several neighbors in the past. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Homosexual]
- A complainant approached an officer and reported that he was sitting near a woman at the transit center when she asked him to move. The subject stated she was racist against Asians and said she would kill him if he did not move. Officers interviewed the subject, who stated that the complainant was sexually harassing her in an "Asian, sexual Down Syndrome way." The subject spoke inconsistently and off-topic, which led officers to believe she may have a mental illness. Officers informed both the female subject and male complainant how they could file for charges.
- A local politician reported harassing communication on their social media account. On a post containing a picture of the politician and his son, an unknown subject posted a message which included a threat and an Anti-Black racial epithet. The username had the same letters and punctuation as the posted message. The victim reported the post to both social media companies.
- The complainant reported that an email from a named individual came through the business account, stating that the subject hated multiple races of people and was going to start killing them all. The complainant advised that the business did not have a customer by the name on the email nor at the referenced address. A second incident was reported at another business (referenced below). Officers concluded this was an ongoing neighbor dispute, and no hate crime occurred. [Anti-White] [Anti-Black] [Anti-Asian]
- A complainant reported that a message (in Spanish) came through the business's "Contact Us" form from a named individual. The suspect stated they hated multiple races of people and were going to start killing them. (also referenced in another report). The investigation revealed ongoing issues with a neighbor that the officer believed may have contributed to the random messages. [Anti-White] [Anti-Black] [Anti-Asian]

SEPTEMBER

- MCPD received a tip from the F.B.I. stating Montgomery College reported a Zoom bombing incident in which a class was disrupted by unknown subject(s) using Anti-Black racial epithets towards some of the students. The professor had not followed Zoom calls protocol, but this was the 3rd or 4th time it had occurred in a college Zoom class.
- A complainant reported an unknown male subject was walking behind her house and made an Anti-Black comment (in Spanish). The subject's comment was prompted by the complainant talking too loudly on her phone, and the subject stated he would come over and give her a warning. Police were unable to locate the subject.
- During an arrest, the subject yelled numerous Anti-Asian racial slurs at an officer. While in

transport, the subject removed his seatbelt and began violently kicking the vehicle's back door. When the officer tried to put the seatbelt back on, the subject spit in the officer's face; when the officer again entered the rear of the vehicle to counteract the preceding assault, the subject kicked the officer in the face multiple times, causing minor injuries to the officer's face. The subject was charged with assault and committing a hate crime.

- A complainant reported that an unknown subject left dead rats beside, under, and on top of his car. The victim believes he was targeted because of Jewish iconography near his residence. Officers noted that the landscaping prevented anyone from seeing the iconography. There had been no previous issues with the complainant or at his home.
- A complainant reported that an unknown male walked up to the bus stop and began hitting his friend while using Anti-Hispanic racial slurs, then walked away.
- A patient was upset with the radiology department regarding M.R.I.s and made Anti-Black and Anti-Asian racial statements to several employees. After a verbal dispute in the waiting room, the subject left, threatening to come back "with a machine gun to blow the place up."
- A complainant reported graffiti of a swastika and what appeared to be a klansman (hooded/triangle-shaped face) in the underpass of the Muddy Branch Trail. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Multi Racial]
- The complainant reported his neighbor was angry about a contractor entering his property to trim trees hanging over a shared fence. The neighbor yelled at the complainant; the complainant told the neighbor he needed Jesus. The neighbor was offended because he was Jewish.

OCTOBER

- Maryland National Capital Park Police contacted M.C.P.D. about a bias incident near a local park. An unknown subject(s) placed several stickers containing racial slurs on the support posts near the park. The stickers featured a photo of a female of an unknown race and the words "Looking for METH?" Underneath that were an Anti-Black statement, racial epithet, and the presumed contact information for the female.
- The Director of Security reported to police that he received an Anti-Jewish voicemail message implying that the caller disapproved of his religion. Unknown subject(s).
- Police responded to a home where a subject was observed striking a political sign with a metal pole. When the homeowner approached the subject, the subject yelled Anti-White curse words at the complainant and toward the national political administration.
- Police responded to an assault report at a hospital. A subject was admitted to the hospital following a prior car crash while under the influence of drugs and had displayed difficult behavior. The subject snatched a phone out of a nurse's hand, used a homophobic slur toward the nurse, and threatened to kill the off-duty officer. When the drugs were clear from his system, hospital staff attempted to discharge him, but the subject went into a fighting stance against a security guard and swung at him, yelling numerous Anti-Black racial epithets. While the guard was trying to restrain the subject, the subject kicked him in his face. During the interview, the subject admitted to using a racial epithet.

- A teacher notified police after encountering two juveniles spray painting a wall of a school parking garage. The graffiti included the word "Swag," with an image of a noose and two crosses. Officers spoke to both suspects' parents and determined the subjects were emulating images they had seen in music videos and that no malice or bias was intended.
- The victim reported a subject displayed a knife, stole his money, and made an Anti-Homosexual comment.
- The victim reported a note left on his car windshield containing Anti-Homosexual slang. The victim had never received anything like this before. However, he noted that he has also started receiving strange knocks at his apartment door, but no one was there when he answered. Unknown subject(s).

NOVEMBER

- The homeowner reported that a political election sign in his front yard had a small swastika drawn on it. [Anti-Jewish]
- Unknown subject(s) gained access to the school roof, carved an Anti-Black racial epithet, "(person's name) was Here," and swastikas, onto a piece of metal. The public could not see the graffiti. This graffiti was the second act of vandalism at the school in a week. [Anti-Jewish] [Anti-Black]
- A complainant reported that while walking down the street, an unknown male in a vehicle yelled an Anti-Black racial epithet out his window, spat at her, and then sped off. She was unable to get the tag number.
- The victims reported that while they were out shopping, they were approached by an unknown male subject who made Anti-White comments, angrily expressed his disapproval of interracial couples, then spit on both and ran away.
- A complainant reported an unknown subject(s) had drawn a swastika on her front yard's political sign. The complainant was not Jewish.
- The victim was walking down the street when two unknown male subjects began shouting Anti-Homosexual statements at him, punched him, and stole his cell phone. The victim refused to press charges. The case was closed administratively.
- A synagogue employee reported that during a weekly meeting on Zoom, several participants began spewing anti-Semitic statements and holding swastikas over their cameras. The rabbi ended the meeting. The Zoom link for the meetings was public and posted on the website. The meeting was not recorded. Unknown subject(s).
- A victim reported that while he and his daughter were walking their dog, a truck with three unknown suspects drove by and shouted, "get the (expletive) out of here" and "we don't want you here" while giving them the middle finger. He felt he had been targeted because he was Middle-Eastern and was scared due to prior incidents of a similar nature.
- Officers responded to a homeless shelter for an assault. The subject stated that he punched

another resident for directing Anti-Black racial slurs toward him. The assault victim refused to speak to officers and appeared intoxicated. The victim of the bias incident was the subject of the reported assault.

- A complainant reported her transgender juvenile daughter was being threatened with blackmail (exposure) after the victim exchanged sexual photos via social media with an unknown person, initially believed to be a middle-school classmate. Preliminary investigation suggested this was not a bias-motivated incident.
- A complainant called police to report that unknown subject(s) had damaged pipes inside the construction property. Graffiti, including swastikas, was also found on the second floor. The complainant stated nothing was missing or left behind. This was the second incidence of vandalism at this property. The first event featured graffiti, and the windows were spray painted black. [Anti-Jewish]
- The complainant was the owner of a newly opened Asian restaurant. For several weeks, a female repeatedly called (every day, multiple times a day), asking if the business sold dog, cat, and told the owner to go back to China. The owner did not want to block the number for fear it might hurt the business, but he would attempt to obtain further information from the phone company.

DECEMBER

- Officers were dispatched for the report of vandalism and discovered that unknown subject(s) had spray-painted a traffic management utility box with a swastika. However, upon investigation, the detective determined the image was not a swastika, but rather two "4"s or a "4" and a "7." Investigators were not familiar with the marking/symbol. The case was unfounded for bias.
- A school administrator reported to police that several swastikas had been carved into several of the playground pieces. No security footage was available. Unknown subject(s). [Anti-Jewish]
- Officers responded to the report of vandalism on the side of a building. The officer discovered someone had spray-painted an Anti-Black racial epithet and a person's name underneath. Unknown subject(s).
- A victim reported to police that an unknown subject(s) spray-painted a swastika on the back of his vehicle overnight. A neighbor's security camera captured a suspicious vehicle, but no subject was identified. [Anti-Jewish]
- A school administrator reported to police that he had received multiple reports from students stating that a student threatened social media to assault another student. There were also videos of the subject aggressively using Anti-Black racial epithets. The victim wished to remain anonymous and did not want to pursue the matter any further. The principal followed up with the subject.