



PASSAIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Camelia M. Valdes
Prosecutor

Neil J. Cleary
First Assistant Prosecutor

A. Joseph Fulco
Chief of Prosecutor's Detectives

(U//LES) This Situational Awareness Report is intended to provide an overview of Bias incidents and/or crimes reported in Passaic County in 2016 which may include information that may affect the county's threat posture.

07 March 2017

Summary

(U//LES) Between January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016 the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office had thirty (30) Bias Incidents reported to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office from several municipalities. There were three (3) cases out of the thirty (30) reported, where individuals were charged with Bias Intimidation as well as the initial crime.

BIAS INCIDENT REPORTING 2016

Bloomington PD- Eight (8) Incidents

- Harassment- Actor known to victim(s). Ongoing neighbor dispute where a Caucasian neighbor continually made harassing and derogatory racially motivated remarks to his African-American neighbors. Victims filed complaints in municipal court.
- Criminal Mischief-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) made graffiti of Swastikas inside boy's bathroom at a school.
- Harassment-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) yelled from a moving vehicle anti-Homosexual remarks to a male pedestrian walking down the street.

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- Burglary/Criminal Mischief-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) entered vacant house and wrote racially derogatory graffiti in the house. *** It should be noted that homeowner is not African American.*
- Harassment-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) drove into a gas station where the victim was working and shouted anti-Islamic remarks as they drove away.
- Harassment-No charges filed. Two juveniles had a physical altercation at a school when an unknown individual yelled anti-Homosexual remarks to one the individuals involved.
- Bias Incident-While attempting to get a ride home, an intoxicated female became verbally aggressive towards individuals in her sight and began to yell anti-Asian remarks to two Asian individuals.
****It should be noted that female was charged with other offenses unrelated to the Bias Incident.*
- Harassment-No charges filed. Victims declined to file charges. Ongoing neighbor dispute. Caucasian neighbor who resided above the victims at the same location felt that his African American neighbors were trying to get him evicted. Caucasian neighbor repeatedly texted African American neighbors being confrontational, then at one point used a racial slur against them. Victims were advised of their rights to file a complaint.

Clifton PD-Four (4) Incidents

- Harassment-No charges filed. Unknown party continually called a local restaurant complaining about their food order and then made anti-Islamic remarks to victim.
- Assault-No charges filed. Victim stated that while waiting in a shopping plaza she was asked by an actor for a light (matches/lighter) then stated that she did not smoke. Actor then stated "I bet you smoke because you are African American" then flicked some kind of clip at the victim. Investigation yielded negative results but victim was informed of her right to civil complaint.

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- Robbery/Bias Intimidation-Charges filed. Two actors got into a verbal altercation at a local restaurant with two male victims. Actors made Anti-homosexual remarks to the two male victims. Actors left the establishment, then followed victims to their residence to physically assault them as they continued to yell anti-Homosexual remarks at them. Actors then forcefully removed a cell phone from one victim because the victim recorded the verbal altercation at restaurant. Both actors were charged accordingly.
****It should be noted that both male victims are not homosexual but were believed to be by the actors.*
- Assault-Charges filed. A Trans-Gender Juvenile victim was walking home from school when an actor, who was another High School student assaulted victim while the actor's mother and brother were present. Victim was hit in the head causing pain. During the commission of the assault, the actor made anti-Homosexual remarks to the victim.

Hawthorne-Two (2) Incidents

- Harassment-No charges filed. Victim received anti-Semitic (Jewish) phone calls from her ex-husband. Victim was advised in signing a complaint but refused to do so.
- Harassment-No charges filed. Unknown actor. A Caucasian male was following an African-American victim and his friends while they were walking as he was yelling racial slurs at them.

Little Falls-Two (2) Incidents

- Bias Incident-Actor was moving out of residence when he made anti-Semitic remarks to a Pakistani victim who was the actor's landlord.
- Assault-No charges filed. Incident handled by the school. Two juveniles had a physical altercation at school. During the altercation another unknown juvenile called the one of the juveniles involved in altercation a racial slur. The juvenile who the racial slur was directed at, is African American.

Montclair State University-Eight (8) Incidents

- Harassment-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) used their finger to draw a Swastika as well as an anti-African American slur on victims rear window. Victim is African American.
- Criminal Mischief-Unknown actor(s) etched a Swastika into metal face plate inside an elevator.
- Harassment-No charges filed. Victim refused. Victim who is a resident assistant on campus went to speak to residents of the dorm in which there were noise complaints. The actors were upset that the victim came to their room, closed the door and made anti-Homosexual remarks to the victim. Victim is Homosexual but did not wish to pursue charges.
- Bias Incident- Unknown actor(s). Anti-Semitic (Jewish) sentiment flyers were found with the word Israel crossed off flyer and the words "Free Pal" were written on flyer.
- Harassment-No charges/victims refused. Caucasian female sent anti-African American texts and emails to victim who was her roommate. The roommate is African American. Victim did not want to pursue criminal charges but wanted the Dean's Office to handle incident accordingly.
- Harassment/Bias Intimidation-charges filed. Actor harassed victim with anti-Homosexual remarks due to the fact that the victim is Trans-Gender.
- Criminal Mischief-No charges. Unknown actor(s) placed anti-Homosexual graffiti in an academic building on campus.
- Criminal Mischief-No charges. Unknown actor placed anti-Homosexual as well as anti-Hispanic graffiti (specifically targeting Mexicans) referring to the election of Donald Trump. Graffiti was located inside the men's room in one of the buildings on campus.

Passaic-Four (4) incidents

- Bias Incident- Unknown actor yelled anti-Semitic (Jewish) and anti-African American slurs at two victims who were Jewish. Unknown male appeared to be intoxicated.
- Harassment-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) sent repeated anti-Semitic (Jewish) texts via cell phone to victim who is Jewish. Investigation yielded negative results to locate actor.
- Criminal Mischief-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) painted white paint over a mural of the Virgin Mary with a Mexican flag under it attempting to cover the artwork and the Mexican flag.
- Burglary/Criminal Mischief-No charges filed. Unknown actor(s) broke into victims car window attempting use an instrument inside the vehicle. The vehicle was also keyed with anti-African American slurs on the gas tank and hood. ****It should be noted that victim is Hispanic and not African American.*

Pompton Lakes-Two (2) Incidents

- Bias Incidents -Unknown actor(s) sent typed letters on two separate occasions to a Synagogue with no return address with negative rhetoric regarding Jewish history and the misunderstandings of Jesus Christ.

****It should be noted that in all of incidents where there was a victim and an identified actor, each victim was thoroughly informed of their rights of as a victim of a Bias Crime and/or Incident.*

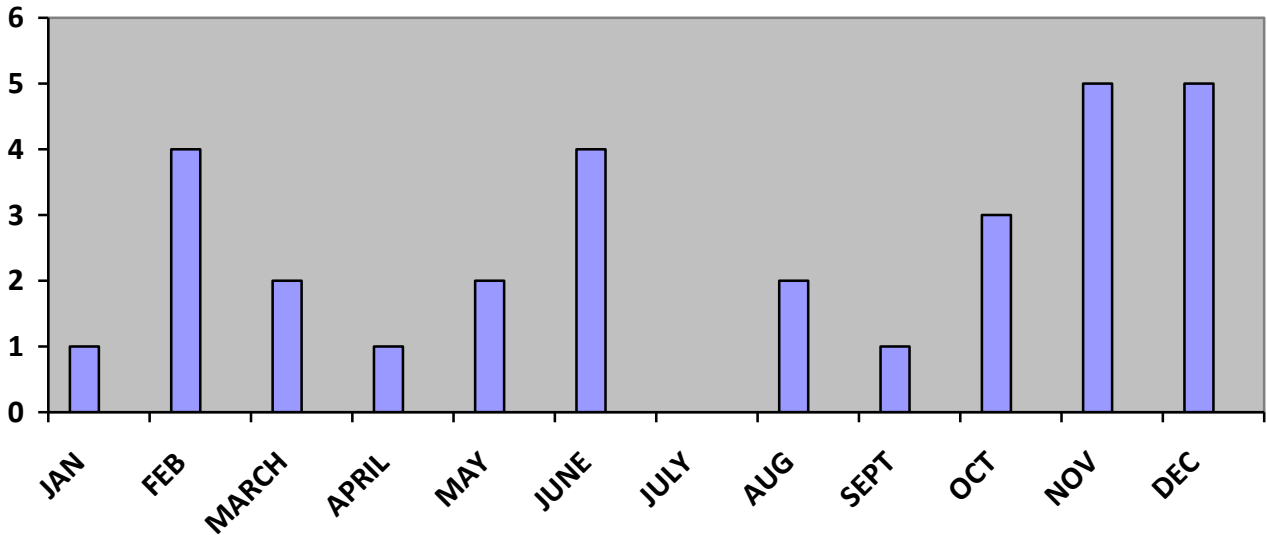
UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

The table and chart below illustrates the Bias Crimes and/or Incidents reported in 2016 by month in Passaic County

January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016 (30 cases reported)

****19% Decrease over January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015 (37 cases reported)**

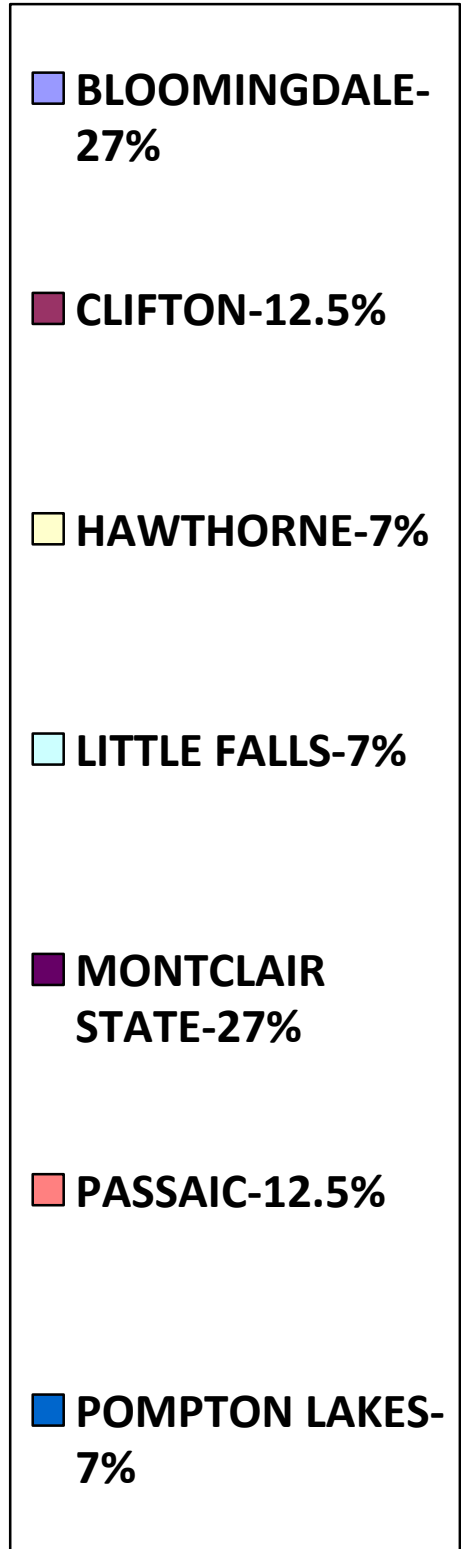
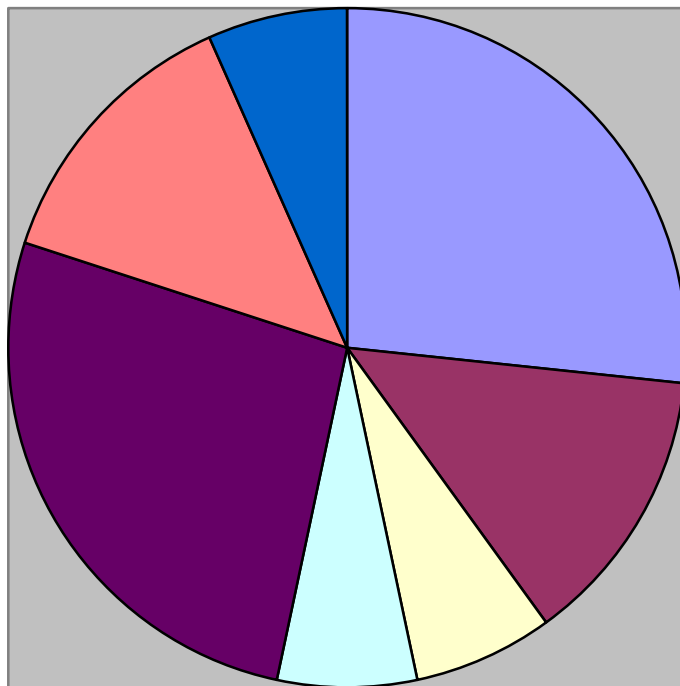
JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	4	2	1	2	4	0	2	1	3	5	5



Overview

(U//LES) The greatest amount of Bias Incidents occurred in Passaic County in the month of November and December 2016 with five (5) incidents or 17%. February and June 2016 had the second highest amount of incidents with four (4) or 13%. October had three (3) incidents with 10%. There were two (2) incidents or 7% in March, May and August 2016. There was only one incident or 3% reported in January, May and September. There were no incidents reported in the month of July 2016.

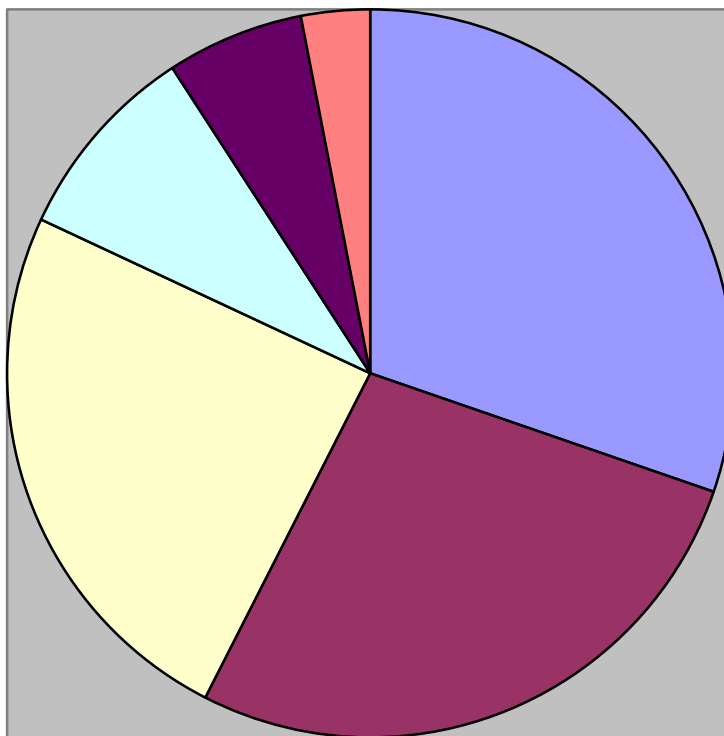
2016 Bias Incidents Reported by Passaic County Municipalities



Overview

(U//LES) From January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016 Montclair State University and Bloomingdale Police Department each had the greatest number of Bias Incidents reported with eight (8) incidents reported or 27%. The cities of Clifton and Passaic both the second highest amount of incidents reported with four (4) incidents or 12.5%. Hawthorne, Little Falls and Pompton Lakes Police Department each had two (2) incidents or 7% reported in their municipality.

2016 Bias Incidents/Victims Reported By Group



- ANTI-AFRICAN AMERICAN-30%**

- ANTI-JEWISH-27%**

- ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL-25%**

- ANTI-ISLAMIC/MUSLIM-9%**

- ANTI-HISPANIC (MEXICAN)-6%**

- ANTI-ASIAN-3%**

Overview

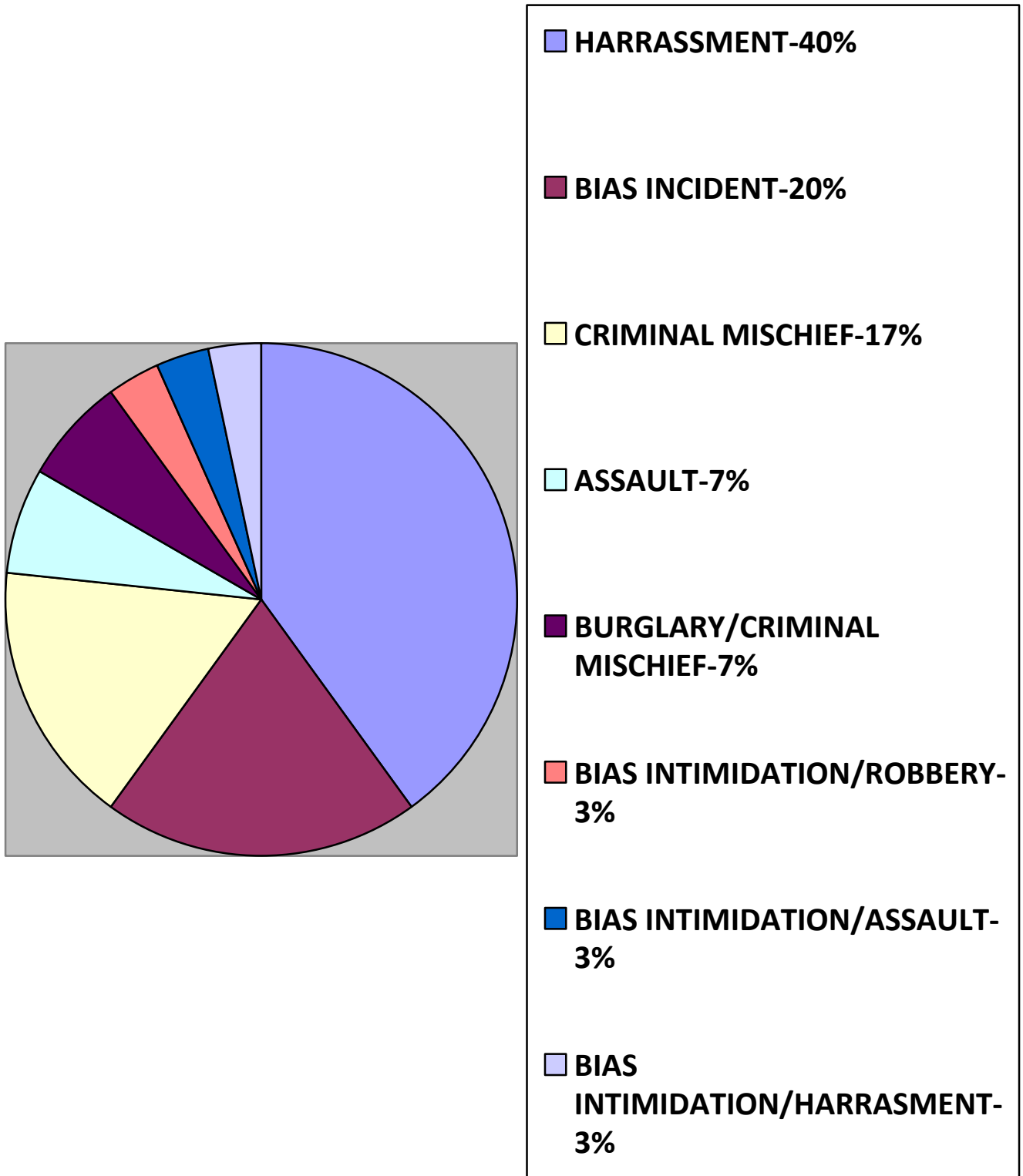
(U//LES) In 2016 the most commonly reported incident was Anti-African American sentiment(s) with ten (10) or 30% of the victims and/or incidents. Anti-Jewish sentiment(s) was the second highest reported by victims and/or incidents with nine (9) or 27%. Anti-Homosexual sentiment(s) had eight (8) or 25% of victims and/or incidents. Anti-Muslim/Islamic sentiment(s) had three (3) or 9% of victims and or incidents. Anti-Hispanic sentiment(s) specifically targeting individuals of Mexican decent had two (2) or 6% of victims and/or incidents reported. Anti-Asian sentiment had one (1) victim or 3% of the incidents reported.

In 2016 there was the greatest amount of incidents reported regarding Anti-African American sentiment as compared to 2015 where Anti-Jewish sentiment dominated the number of incidents reported last year.

****It should be noted that some of the incidents reported had more than one victim and/or actor in this Bias reporting.*

****It should be noted that three of the incidents reported had more than one of the protected groups targeted which was indicated in these statistics.*

2016 Bias Crimes Reported in Passaic County



Overview

(U//LES) In 2016 Harassment was the most commonly reported crime for Bias Incidents in Passaic County. The greatest amount of cases reported was Harassment with twelve (12) cases or 40%. Bias Incidents were the second highest reported with six (6) incidents or 20%. Criminal Mischief had five (5) or 17% of the cases reported. Assault, Burglary along with Criminal Mischief had two (2) cases or 7% of the incidents reported. Bias Intimidation along with a Robbery, Assault or Harassment each had one (1) case or 3% of the incidents reported.

****It should be noted that in each of the incidents where there was Graffiti/Criminal Mischief, the graffiti and/or markings was immediately removed as per New Jersey Attorney General's Bias Incident guidelines and protocol.*

Impact

(U//LES) Bias incidents and/or crimes can have a negative effect on communities and their victims. Victims of Bias incidents and /or crimes may be reluctant to report them due to fear or further intimidation.

Recommendations

(U//LES) Law Enforcement should remain vigilant in reporting Bias Incidents and/or crimes. Municipalities should stay in contact with their religious houses of worship as well as community leaders to heighten awareness regarding Bias incidents and/or crimes to request information on similar incidents as well as encourage victim(s) to report these incidents.

(U//LES) Bias Crimes training to municipal Police Departments would ensure proper reporting and protocols to further guarantee that these crimes and/or incidents are being handled accordingly.

(U//LES) Law Enforcement must also keep in mind when investigating any posts made on social media or the distribution of materials, to properly differentiate if a crime was committed or if in fact an individual is exercising their First Amendment rights protected under Freedom of Speech. This will ensure that these incidents and/or crimes are properly reported and investigated thoroughly.

(U//LES) These incidents and/or crimes are a priority to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. Municipalities must continue to follow the NJ Attorney General's Bias Crimes reporting protocols to ensure that the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office is adhering to their policies.

Request for Information

(U//LES) The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Bias Crime Officer requests information on any similar unreported and/or current incidents regarding Bias incidents and/or crimes within Passaic County. Such activity should be reported immediately per existing Attorney General's Bias Crimes reporting.

Bias Incidents and/or crimes can be reported to Detective First Grade Nancy Petrara-Stafyleras 973-837-7735. Nstafyleras@passaiccountynj.org

Any legal questions regarding Bias incidents and/or crimes can be referred to Senior Assistant Prosecutor Josue Vazquez 973-837-7622
Jvazquez@passaiccountynj.org