

 Newington Police Department General Order	 Number 42.6
Investigation of Hate Crimes	
Chapter 42 – Criminal Investigation	
Date: May 26, 2017	Revised:

1. Purpose
 - A. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for identifying and investigating hate crimes and assisting victimized individuals and communities. A swift and strong response by law enforcement can help stabilize and calm the community as well as aid in a victim's recovery.

2. Policy
 - A. Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation, or other crimes motivated by hate and bias and designed to infringe upon the rights of individuals are viewed very seriously by The Newington Police Department and will be given high priority. This agency shall employ all necessary resources and vigorous law enforcement action to identify and arrest hate crime perpetrators. Also recognizing the particular fears and distress typically suffered by victims, the potential for reprisal and escalation of violence, and the far-reaching negative consequences of these crimes on the community. This agency shall be mindful of and responsive to the security concerns of victims and their families.
 - B. This agency shall develop a standard system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting incidents of crime that are, in whole or in part, directed against individuals because of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

3. Definitions
 - A. *Bias*: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.
 - B. *Hate Crime*: A crime in which the offender intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property that is the object of the crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation of any person.
 - C. *Hate Group*: An organization whose ideology is primarily or substantially based on antipathy, hostility, or hatred toward persons of a different race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, and/or gender identity.
 - D. *Race*: A group of persons who possess common physical characteristics, for example, color of skin, eyes, and/or hair; facial features, and so forth, which are genetically transmitted by descent and heredity and that distinguish them as a distinct division of humankind. Examples include Asians, blacks or African Americans, and whites.
 - E. *Ethnic Group*: A group of persons whose members identify with each other through a common heritage, often consisting of a shared language, culture and/or ideology that stresses common ancestry.
 - F. *Religious Group*: A group of persons who share the same religious beliefs regarding the origin and purpose of the universe and the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being. Examples include Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and atheist.
 - G. *Sexual Orientation*: A person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex. Examples include homosexual, bisexual, and heterosexual.
 - H. *Gender*: Used synonymously with sex to denote whether an individual is male or female.
 - I. *Gender Identity*: A person's internal sense of being male, female, or a combination of both; this internal sense of gender may be different from physical gender at birth.
 - J. *Disability*: A physical or mental impairment, whether temporary or permanent, that is due to conditions that are congenital or acquired by heredity, accident, injury, advanced age, or illness.

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4. Procedures

A. Initial Response Procedures

Initial responding officers at the scene of a suspected hate crime shall follow this agency's standard protocol for responding to a crime scene. In particular, officers shall:

1. Locate any victims and render aid, if necessary.
2. Secure the crime scene and collect any physical evidence such as hate literature, spray paint cans, and symbolic objects used by hate groups, such as swastikas and crosses.
3. Recognize the potential need for and request the assistance of a translator, where necessary.
4. Attempt to identify any potential witnesses and suspect(s).
5. Notify a supervisor and brief him or her on actions taken thus far.
6. Identify prior bias-motivated occurrences in the immediate area or against the same victim.

B. Supervisory Responsibilities

The supervisor shall do the following:

1. Respond to the scene of all possible hate crimes and confer with the initial responding officer(s).
2. Notify the Chief of Police, or his designee, and other appropriate personnel in the chain of command, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense and its potential inflammatory and impact on the community.
3. Determine if Investigative Division personnel are needed to process the crime scene.
4. Identify individuals or agencies that may provide support and assistance. These may include family members or close acquaintances, clergy, or community service agencies such Newington Human Services.
5. Ensure that all relevant facts are documented in an incident report that is submitted in a timely manner.

C. Investigators' Responsibilities

The investigator shall follow this agency's standard protocol for responding to a crime scene. In particular, investigators shall do the following:

1. If evidence of an inflammatory nature cannot be physically removed (e.g., painted words or signs on a wall), photographs should be taken and the owner of the property should be contacted to do all that is possible to ensure that the graffiti is removed as soon as possible. The investigator shall follow up to ensure that this is accomplished in a timely manner.
2. Work closely with the State's Attorney's Office to ensure that a legally sound case is developed for prosecution.
3. Share information with other local, state, federal agencies in order to identify any patterns, organized hate groups, and suspects potentially involved in the offense.
4. Complete the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety Bias Crime Report (DPS-323-C).
5. When necessary, request additional resources from the FBI and/or U.S. Attorney's Office.
6. Take steps to ensure that appropriate assistance is being provided to hate crime victims.
7. Provide ongoing information to the victim about the status of the criminal investigation.

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8. Conduct a thorough and complete investigation in all suspected and confirmed hate crime cases.

D. Community Relations and Crime Prevention

Hate crimes are viewed in the community not only as a crime against the targeted victim(s), but also as a crime against the victim's identification group as a whole. Towards this end, this agency's community relations function, or officers so assigned, shall perform the following:

1. Continue to provide assistance to the victim, including protecting his or her privacy and that of his or her family as much as possible.
2. In the most serious crimes, meet with neighborhood groups, residents in target communities, and other identified groups as soon as possible to allay fears; emphasize the agency's concern over this and related incidents; reduce the potential for counter-violence and reprisals; and provide safety, security, and crime prevention information.
3. Engage the media as soon as possible as partners in restoring victimized communities through sensitive and accurate reporting. Information regarding hate crimes should be prepared for the media in an accurate and timely manner.
4. Establish liaisons with formal community-based organizations and leaders to mobilize resources that can be used to assist victims and prevent future hate incidents and crimes.

E. Hate Crime Data Collection and Reporting

This agency shall do the following:

1. Make information, records, and statistics collected available to any appropriate local, state, or federal agency and to the public, subject to all confidentiality requirements otherwise imposed by law.

5. The Records Division will be responsible for sending the original Bias Crime Report (DPS-323-C) to the Department of Public Safety Crimes Analysis Unit.

By Order of: _____

Stephen M. Clark
 Chief of Police

Date