

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2018 ANNUAL REPORT ON BIAS INCIDENTS

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2018 MCP Annual Report on Bias Incidents compiled by the Policy, Planning, & Quality Assurance Division*

Contents

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF	1
HATE CRIME STATISTICS ACT.....	2
HISTORY	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS.....	5
TRAINING & OUTREACH	12
SUMMARY	14
APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF 2018 BIAS INCIDENTS	16

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. Fortunately, we have seen the trend of bias crimes subside in Montgomery County.

In 2018, there were 93 bias incidents reported, a decrease from the 123 reported in 2017 and lower than the 98 reported in 2016.

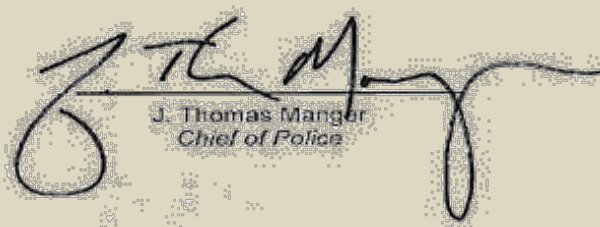
Religion and race continue to be the primary bias motivators in Montgomery County. Of the 93 total bias incidents, eight reflected multiple bias motivations. Race was the motivation in 39 instances. Religion was the primary motivator in 37; of those, 28 were anti-Jewish and four were anti-Islamic, a decrease from the 11 reports in 2017. Sexual orientation accounted for 12 incidents, and ethnicity for seven incidents. Gender bias was a motivation in seven incidents, an increase from the one incident reported in 2017.



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.

Many of the subjects identified were under the age of 18, although that number has decreased from previous years due to fewer reported incidents from our schools. That trend is welcome, but the involvement of youth in these cases should be a wake-up call 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.

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 residents of Montgomery County.



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

“(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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

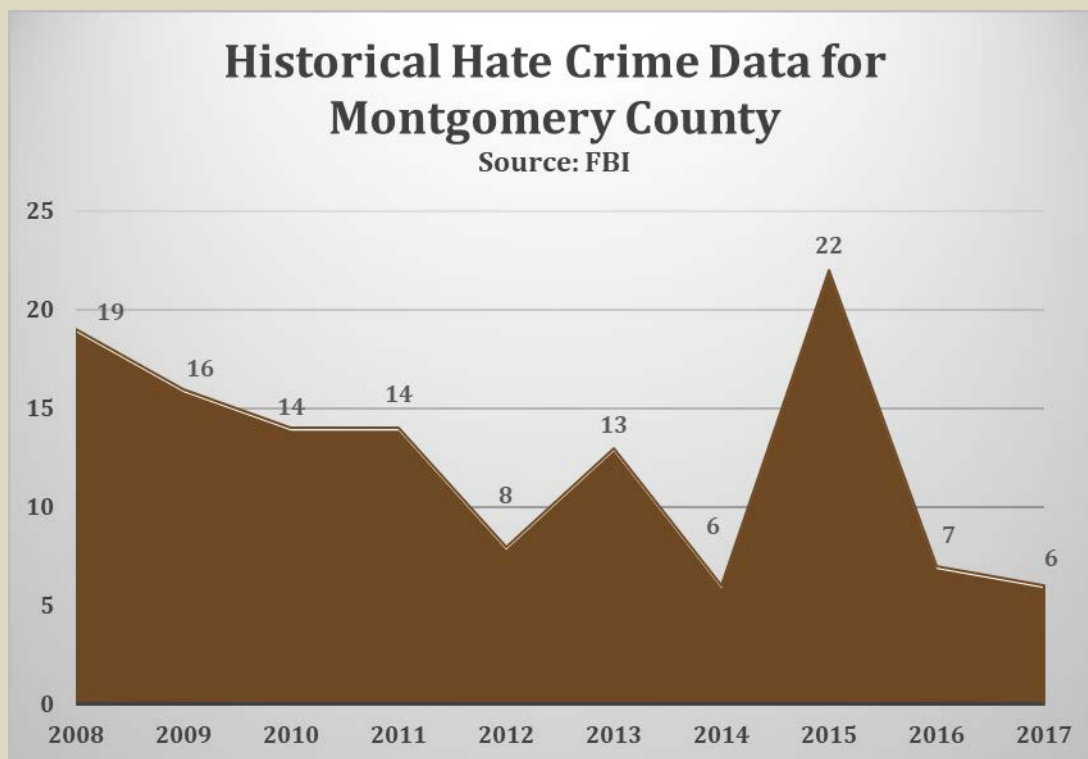
The Montgomery County Police Department's *Annual Report on Bias Incidents* is a report that provides statistical data about all of the incidents and criminal offenses that are motivated by the offender's bias against a race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, sexual 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 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 2018, the department recorded 93 bias incidents (three of the 2018 incidents have been unfounded for bias/hate), a decrease from the 123 reported in 2017. 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

chart¹ 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.



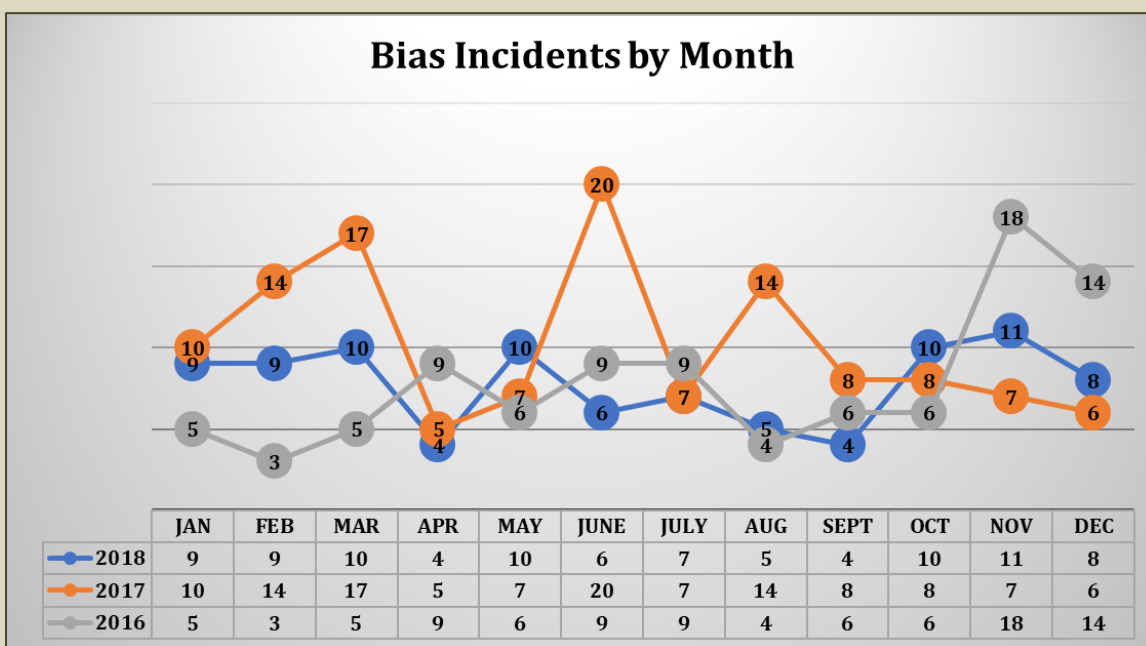
Due to differences in reporting at the local, state, and federal levels, illustrated above, and changes that have been made internally, there is little comparative data available and readers are cautioned against making simplistic comparisons between multiple years, or data and/or other reports from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

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

REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS

There were 93 reported bias incidents in 2018, 24% fewer than the number of bias incidents reported in 2017 (123). The number of reported bias incidents has been declining since the department began experiencing a sharp increase in the number of reports in 2016, and a spike in June 2017 when 20 incidents were reported. On average, the department records eight 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 2018, there were more than 1.05 million people living in Montgomery County.

Of the 93 total bias incidents that were recorded in 2018, eight incidents reflected multiple bias motivations. Race and religion continue to be the primary bias motivators (39 and 37 incidents, respectively), then sexual orientation (12 incidents), and ethnicity (7 incidents). Gender bias was a motivation in seven incidents, an increase from the one incident reported in 2017.

Within these categories, the following points should be considered:

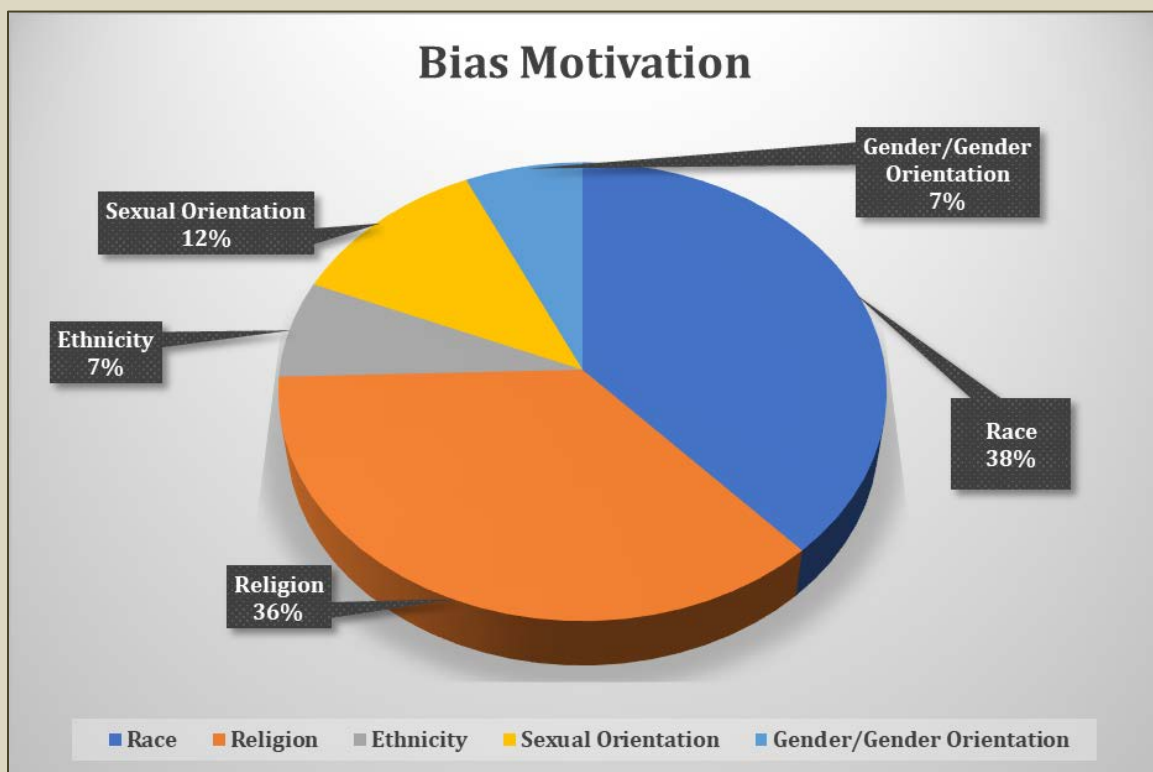
- Of the 37 incidents motivated by bias towards religion, 75.7% (28) were considered anti-Jewish, despite Jewish persons making up only 10% of the population². The next largest

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

religious bias motivator was anti-Islamic, of which there were only four reports this year, compared to 11 reports in 2017.

- Of the 39 incidents motivated by bias towards a race, 66.7% (26) were considered anti-black. There were also five multi-racial incidents (vandalism, letters, flyers left behind) in which references to the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist groups were discovered. Four incidents were anti-white, and four were anti-Asian.
- Of the 7 incidents motivated by ethnicity bias, five were anti-Hispanic, a decline of 16.7% since 2017.

This is slightly different than trends at the national level, where race/ethnicity motivated 60% of single-bias incidents in 2017, and religious bias was a factor in only 21%.³



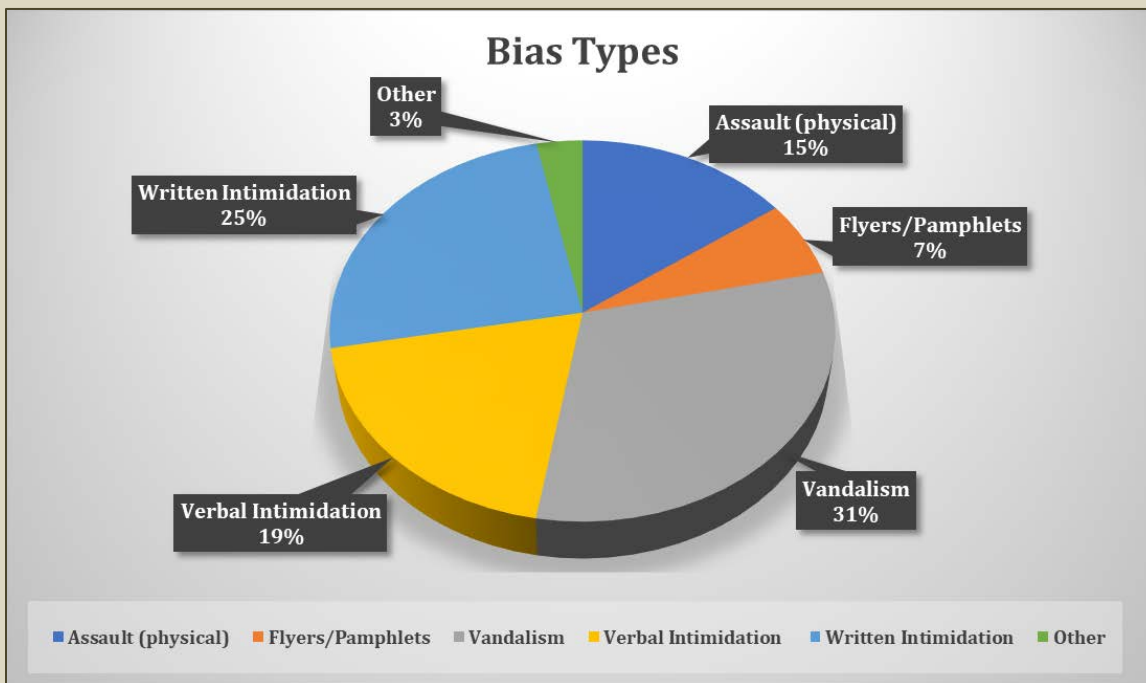
TYPES OF BIAS INCIDENTS

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

Approximately 31% percent of the reported bias incidents fall into the category of vandalism/graffiti (29 incidents, 42% less than the number of vandalisms in 2017). Significantly

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2018). 2017 Hate Crime Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2017-hate-crime-statistics-released-111318> . FBI statistics for 2018 will not be available until the fall of 2019.

fewer vandalism incidents were reported by the schools in 2018: only nine of the vandalisms (31%) occurred in or near a school. The most frequent type of vandalism/graffiti reported continues to be the swastika, although it was reported less in 2018 than 2017 (9 vs 20). Anti-homosexual and racial epithets are also frequently reported in Montgomery County.

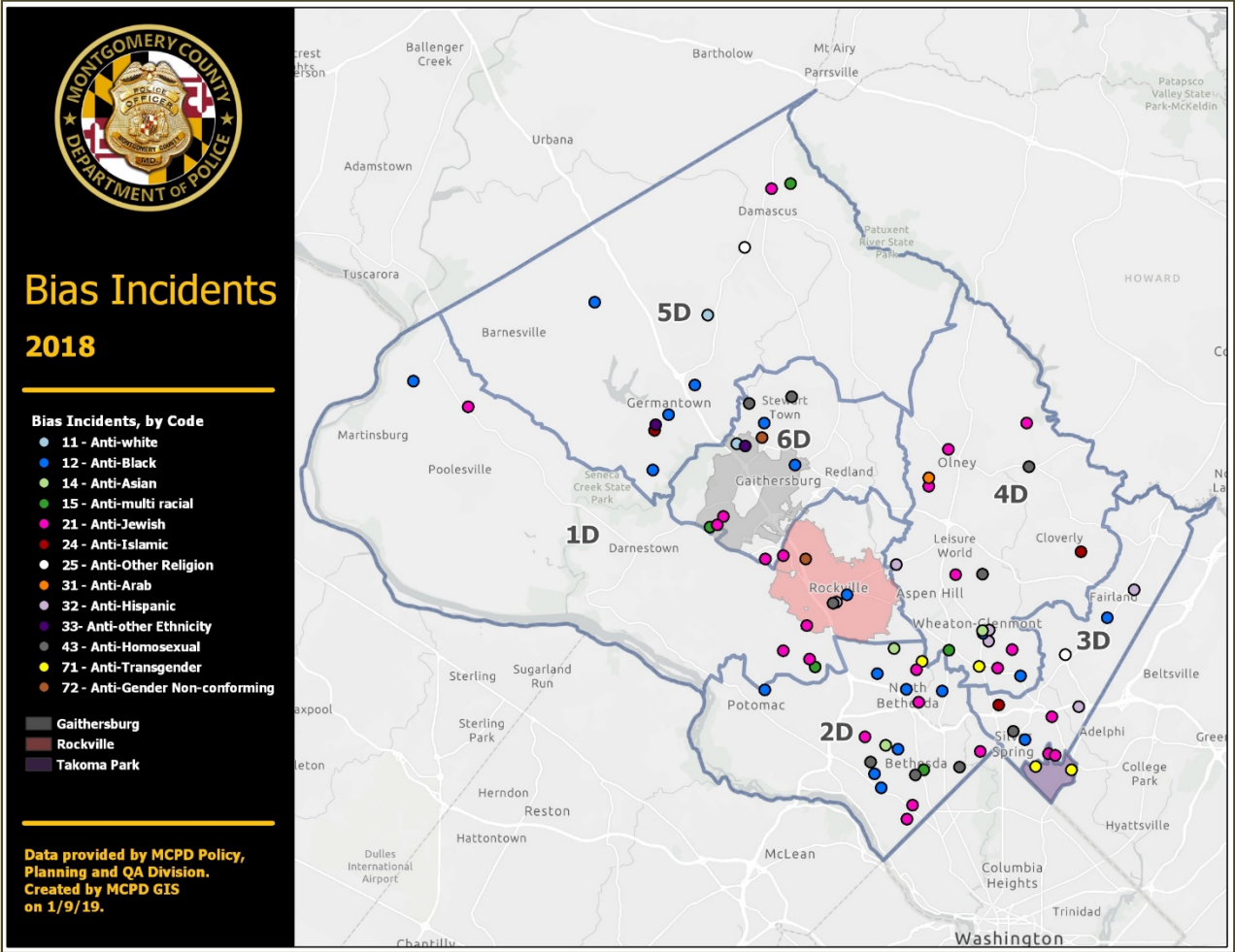
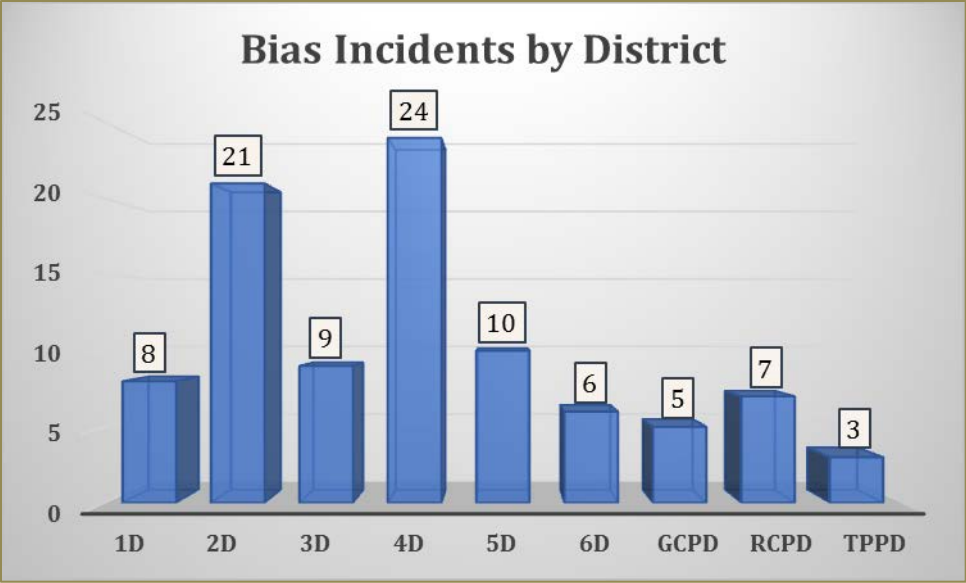


Written intimidation (25%) followed by verbal intimidation (19%) were the next most frequent types of bias incidents reported. Overall, there were 44 incidents involving some form of intimidation; this includes the use of a noose for the purpose of intimidating in two specific incidents (counted in the *Other* category). Social media continues to be a contributing factor in many of the written intimidation incidents; 13 of the 23 written intimidation reports involved threats or bias-based language directed towards an individual or organization. Three other reports involved the use of electronic mail to convey bias-motivated language or threats.

The number of physical assaults reported in 2018 (14 assaults, 15 victims) increased slightly from 2017 (12 assaults, 16 victims), but the number of victims remains lower than the number of assault victims in 2016 (26).

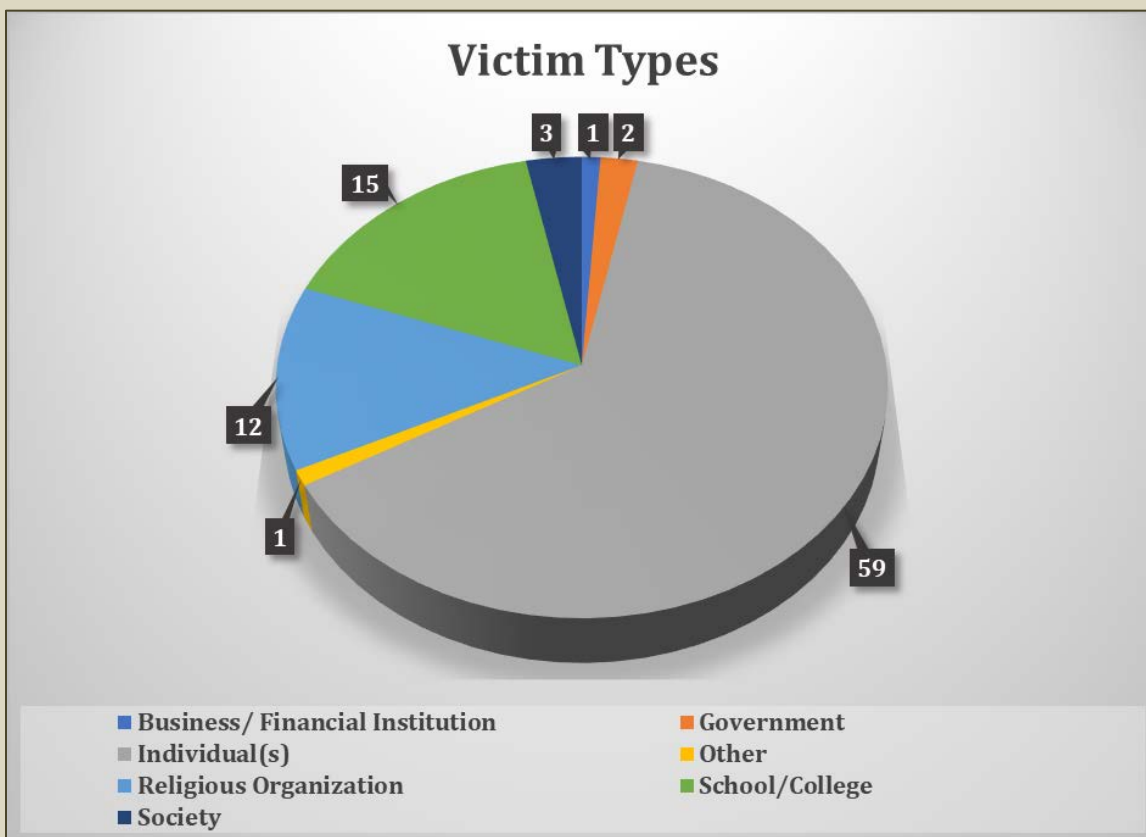
INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

In 2018, the 2nd and 4th Districts experienced the highest volume of reported bias incidents with 19 each. The 5th District had nine reported incidents and the 1st District had eight, with six additional reports taken by the Rockville City Police Department for a total of 14.



VICTIMS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

Of the 93 incidents committed in 2018, there were 59 incidents that were committed against individuals (48.2%); 10 of those incidents had multiple victims. Overall, there were 74 individual victims of bias incidents in 2018. The remaining incidents were committed against schools, religious organizations, government entities, society, a restaurant, and a daycare.

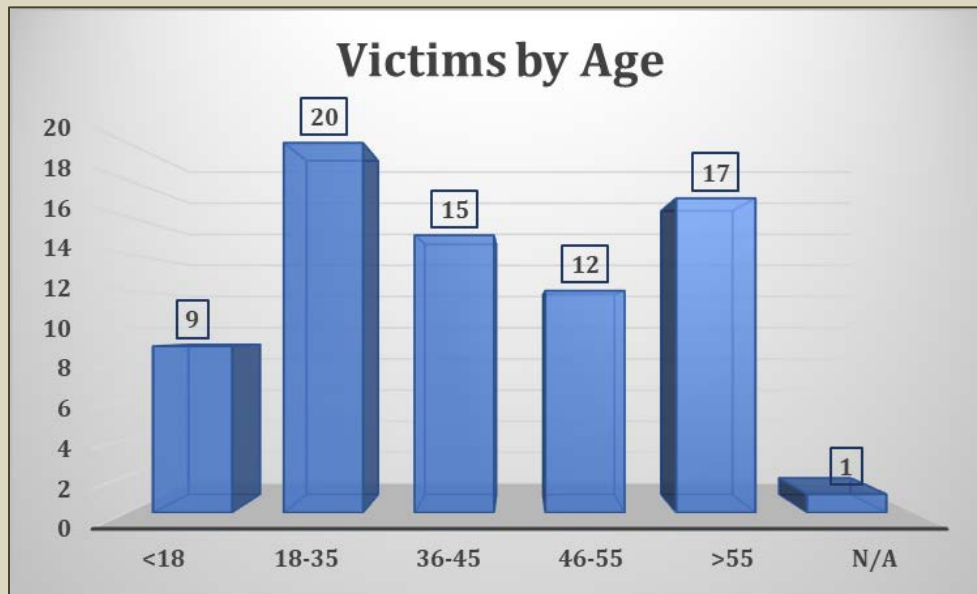


Over the last two years, there had been an increase in the number of incidents in which a school was a target of a bias incident, usually vandalism. However, that number dropped 51.6% in 2018; only 15 incidents were reported in which a school was the target of a bias incident, generally vandalism. There were no reported bias incidents from any of the colleges in Montgomery County. Separately, there were 11 incidents that occurred in or near a school in which specific individuals, rather than the school, were targeted. Overall, 28% of the bias incidents reported in 2018 occurred within or near a school facility. Fifteen of these incidents occurred at a high school; six at a middle school; two at an elementary school; and three at private schools.

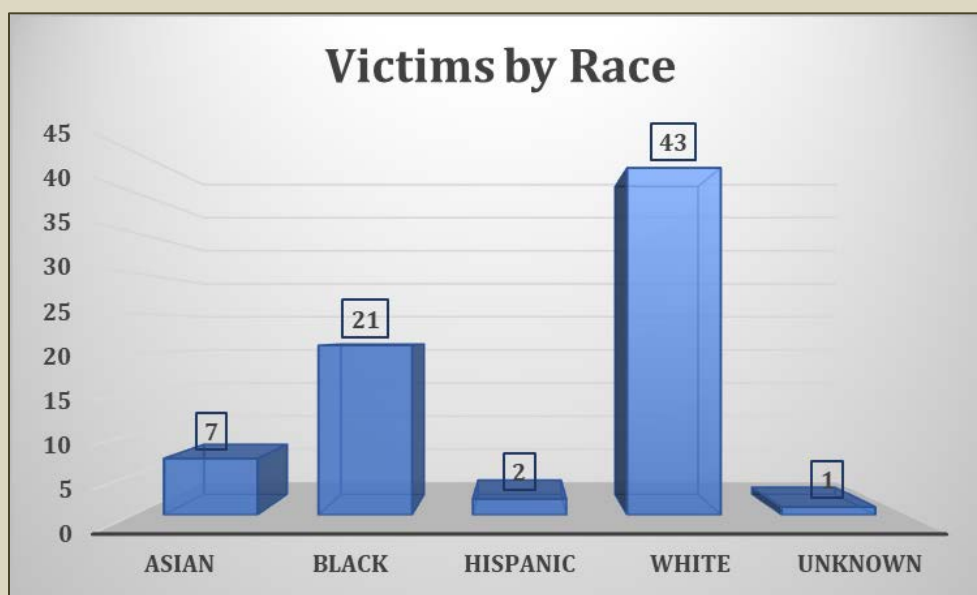
Victim Demographics

Amongst those cases in which specific individuals were victims (74 victims total), there were 34 female victims and 40 male victims.

Although the number of victims aged 36 to 45 years old remained high (15), there was a significant increase in the number of victims between the ages of 46 and 55 years old (140%), and there was a significant increase in the number of incidents in which the victim was over the age of 55 years old (143%). Overall, 60% of the victims in the 2018 incidents were 36 years of age or older.



Slightly more than half of the victims of bias-motivated incidents identify as Caucasian (58.1%), 28.4% identify as African American, 9.5% as Asian, and 2.7% as Hispanic. The number of Asian victims in 2018 increased by 133% (7 vs. 3), but the other racial statistics are comparable to previous years.



Note: Most victims of anti-Jewish motivated incidents are included in the Caucasian category.

OFFENDERS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

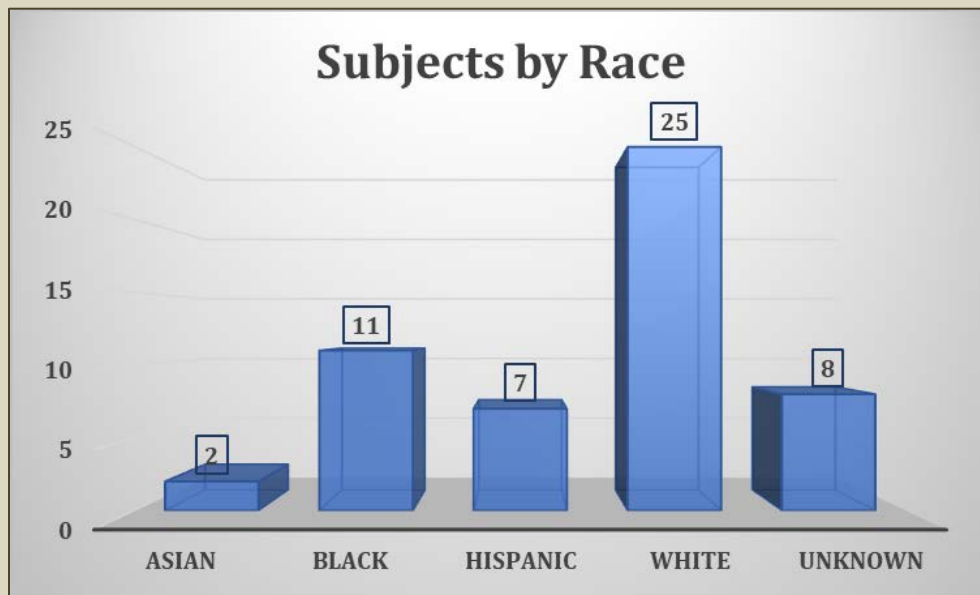
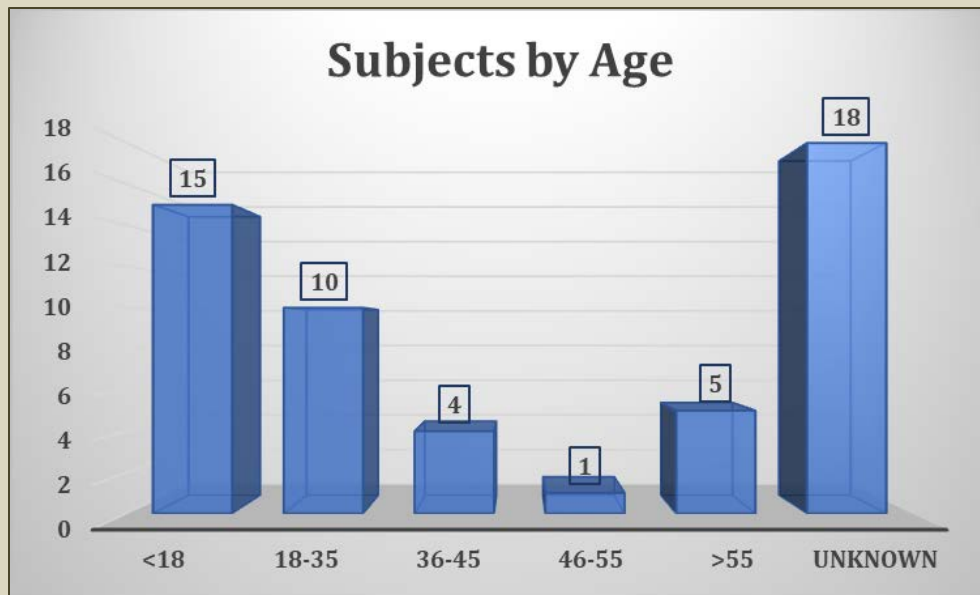
It is often very difficult to identify suspects of bias incidents, as many occur without any witnesses present. Moreover, many bias incidents occur without the victim present, as in the case of bias motivated graffiti or vandalism. In 2018, victims were able to provide suspect information in 43% of the 93 incidents (40), most of which were for some type of intimidation. There was partial suspect information provided in an additional six incidents. **There were 53 subjects developed and/or identified in these 46 incidents.** The subjects of these incidents continue to be predominantly male (44). Eleven subjects (nine males and two females) were arrested, closing 13 cases.

Investigation leads to arrest of "Yahweh", closes four cases

In March 2018, three schools and one daycare received suspicious letters in the mail that contained language related to various school shootings nationwide, race, religion, and politics. All of the letters contained a Prince George's County return address for "Yahweh". The next day, the Montgomery County Police executed a search warrant at Yahweh's address and found hundreds of copies of the same papers sent to the Montgomery County locations. The suspect admitted to sending the letters and stated that he had sent copies throughout the country. Additional information gathered by the detective resulted in an emergency evaluation petition, and Yahweh was taken to Medstar Hospital. The State's Attorney's Office determined that harassment (CR 3-803) and three counts of disturbing school operations would be the most appropriate charges for this case.

At the end of March, the MCPD was contacted by the Santa Monica Division of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Some of Yahweh's letters had made it to several universities on the west coast, and many of the schools had evacuated as a result. The FBI was pursuing charges against Yahweh on a federal level.

Additional demographics of the 53 subjects (including partial descriptions) are presented in the next two charts. Age and race patterns are consistent with previous years, although there was a decline in subjects under the age of 18 due to fewer reported incidents from the schools.



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. 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 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 MCPD Community Engagement Division ensures that investigative follow-up, victim assistance (when applicable), and collaboration is provided in all bias-motivated events, to

mitigate the effects of bias and hate on the community. The executive staff and the community services officers at each district frequently attend training and meet with community members and make presentations about bias incidents to schools and other community organizations, as requested. In 2018, the MCPD hosted, facilitated, and attended more than 1,100 events throughout the County; at least 10% of these were 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.). In addition, following the attack on the Tree of Life synagogue, the MCPD has provided numerous security assessments to local churches and synagogues, and more than 60 *Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events* (CRASE) training/prevention programs to schools, religious organizations, and businesses through the end of 2018.

October 27th, 2018

The Jewish community was violently attacked on this date, when a subject entered the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and opened fire on the congregants who were there for worship, killing 11 and injuring six others. A similar plot to attack a synagogue in Toledo was uncovered shortly thereafter.

If your organization is interested in learning more about preventing or protecting itself during a hostile incident, please contact the MCPD Community Engagement Division, or a district community services officer.

**Montgomery County Community
Engagement Division**
*Officer Almiggabber conducts a
CRASE training presentation in
2018.*



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. A representative from the Montgomery County Police Department attends each of these meetings and shares information on bias-related incidents. Together, our organizations seek to promote acceptance and respect, and to 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, and to build trust amongst the diverse residents of Montgomery County. The department's Public Information Division continues 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. That is why the MCPD encourages all community members and organizations to report any incident in which some element of bias is present. Although some 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*, the MCPD is committed to ensuring equity, opportunity, and inclusion for all people of Montgomery County; the department will not tolerate intolerance, exclusion, indifference, or open intimidation.

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 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](#).

The [MCPD Community Engagement Division](#) is also on social media!



APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF 2018 BIAS INCIDENTS

JANUARY

- Victim was involved in a verbal altercation with subject after subject cut him off while driving. Victim stated subject used racial epithets toward him. All investigative leads exhausted. Unknown suspect(s).
- Complainant reported that someone started leaving trash in her yard in December, and she once received a note that said, "I'm watching you". The complainant believes that these incidents are racially motivated. Unknown suspect(s).
- Victim's vehicle was vandalized with multiple scratch marks, "KKK", and a swastika. Unknown suspect(s).
- Victim reported that someone left a pro-Christian, anti-Islamic pamphlet at her residence. At least one other home in the neighborhood also received this pamphlet. Unknown suspect(s).
- An elementary school teacher found a swastika written on a student's desk, along with the message, "Go back to Vietnam". The teacher had found swastikas in previous weeks, and another paper that said, "I hate you". Unknown suspect(s).

FEBRUARY

- The victim reported that her trash cans were knocked over during the night and she felt she was being targeted. Unknown suspect(s).
- Parent of a middle school student reported that children have been harassing his son about being a foster child and making negative comments about homosexuals.
- A gender-neutral victim was waiting outside when two subjects began making catcalls and teasing him about his appearance. The victim stated that he "wasn't in the mood" and the subjects began chasing him, stopping only when his mother arrived to pick him up. This case was UNFOUNDED through investigation.
- A high school security officer reported to the SRO that someone has scratched a racial epithet into the wall in the boys' restroom. Unknown suspect(s).
- MCPD received a call from complainant in another state, who is vocally supportive of the Jewish community, but had received several messages through social media from a user who had made several disparaging remarks about Jewish people and specifically made threats toward a school in Montgomery County.
- A complainant reported that someone drew a swastika in the snow in her neighbor's yard.
- An apartment building manager reported he discovered anti-Hispanic obscenities written on an internal wall of the building. Unknown suspect(s).
- A victim was verbally assaulted at his place of employment by an angry customer and told to "go back to his own country".

- A complainant reported that she found two nooses hanging from the trail sign at the entrance of a county park. Unknown suspect(s).

MARCH

- Takoma Park police officers took a report from a transgendered victim who alleged that two Hispanic males robbed her and raped her. Unknown suspect(s). ***Note: Montgomery County does not report Takoma Park incidents to the state of Maryland.***
- Mother reported to the MCPD that she feared for the safety of her children, who were receiving threats via social media after the children recorded a video mocking the Step Team. This incident was UNFOUNDED. Investigation revealed that after the video was made, another student added material to the video, which caused the outrage.
- Letters containing threatening language, religious rhetoric, and other violent references were received by four different facilities (only three were recorded as bias incidents due to the language of the letters). Investigation revealed that these letters originated from the same source. Subject was arrested and charged with harassment and disturbing school operations. Federal charges were also pending.
- An anonymous caller reported that someone wrote “KKK” on a fire hydrant. Unknown suspect(s).
- The victim reported that she received inappropriate messages through one of her social media accounts, including one that used a derogatory slur towards Jewish people. No crime was committed, and the victim was instructed how to obtain a protective order.
- The (non-Jewish) victim reported that someone had drawn a swastika in the snow on the back of her car. No damage was done to the vehicle. Unknown suspect(s).
- A rabbi reported that someone left an obscene voicemail on the synagogue’s phone line. Unknown suspect(s).
- The director of the Washington Hebrew Congregation reported that an obscene voicemail was left on the phone line. In this case, the suspect was identified and interviewed. He confessed to calling, but the interview also revealed indications of mental illness. Suspect was charged with two counts of Telephone Misuse.

APRIL

- The victim reported that the suspect shoved him because he “did not want gay people at his house”. The victim was referred to the commissioner’s office for charges.
- A school security officer discovered graffiti, including racial epithets and swastikas, in the weight room. Unknown suspect(s).
- A high school principal notified the SRO there was some bias-related social media postings which appeared to come from one of the students, circulating. Investigation revealed that the student and her mother have been victimized for over a year by unknown subjects, who

have created numerous accounts on social media and pornographic websites, using their names and likenesses. Unknown suspect(s).

- A complainant reported an offensive sticker from a pro-American organization attached to the community billboard in the park. Unknown suspect(s).

MAY

- A high school principal notified the SRO that homophobic graffiti was discovered in the ladies' restroom. Unknown suspect(s).
- The Rockville City Police Department took a report from a victim who stated that she was attacked and sexually assaulted by two Hispanic males who used racial epithets against her. This incident was UNFOUNDED.
- Middle school principal reported that a former student followed other students to their home and assaulted a transgender student. The suspect was arrested and charged with assault and the additional hate crime charge. ***Note: Montgomery County does not report Takoma Park incidents to the state of Maryland.***
- A high school SRO received a complaint from a student who had run for a student office position and lost. The student reported she was receiving emails containing biased, obscene, and threatening statements. Investigation revealed that the emails were coming from the complainant's home address. Case UNFOUNDED.
- The manager of a country club reported that a swastika and "Heil Hitler" was etched into the golf course green. Other damage had also been done to the course. Unknown suspect(s).
- A middle school security assistant reported that she was verbally attacked by a parent, who used a racial epithet towards her, after asking the parent to park in a different location. The parent told the principal she only used that language because the security assistant hit her car with a sign.
- The victim's secretary received a call from someone who was using anti-Semitic language towards him. When the victim returned the call, the subject proceeded to use bias-motivated language towards him, so it was reported to the police. The investigation revealed the identity of the caller, but he is unknown to the victim, and there have been no additional phone calls.
- The MCPD received an anonymous complaint that a fence had been spray painted with an anti-homosexual term. When the officers contacted the resident of the property, he explained that he did believe this vandalism was a result of bias against homosexuality, but rather an attempt by a neighbor who he has had an ongoing conflict with. The resident did not want to make a formal statement to the police or proceed further.
- A complainant reported that a flyer cautioning against "white genocide" was placed on his windshield. A nearby security camera revealed a white male placing the flyer. Unknown suspect(s).
- A complainant reported that she found a baggie containing material from a pro-white

organization in her driveway; another neighbor had also gone through the neighborhood and collected similar packages from other driveways. Unknown suspect(s).

JUNE

- A victim was assaulted by another woman on the bus who stated that she “hates white people”, then began attacking the passenger. A male passenger who tried to defend the female victim was also assaulted. There were many witnesses, and Gaithersburg City police officers were able to quickly identify the suspect and place her under arrest.
- A middle school student was attacked by another student in the hallway. This was not the first attack, but it was the first reported to the police. The victim’s mother believes the attacks are racially motivated. The officer charged the subject with 2nd degree assault.
- An elementary school parent reported to the principal that someone drew several swastikas on the bleachers outside, and the principal reported it to the police. Unknown suspect(s).
- A Jewish organization received a threatening, anti-Semitic message through their website. Unknown suspect(s).
- A complainant reported that a trailer behind the Sikh temple had been vandalized with anti-Black and anti-homosexual terms. There was no forced entry. During the follow-up investigation, the complainant reported that the incident was caused by children and the organization would handle it internally.
- The victim reported that he had been receiving threats containing racial epithets via social media from a subject in another state, who appeared to have a history of using racial slurs over social media. The victim did not want to have any charges brought against him.

JULY

- The victim reported that someone placed multiple American flags in his yard prior to Independence Day. He removed them, but someone placed more the following day. The victim believes he is being targeted for having Islamic political signs in his front yard. During the follow-up investigation, the victim reported to officers that eggs had been thrown at his vehicles, and one of the plants near his mailbox had been stolen. The victim installed security cameras, and no further incidents have been reported.
- The victim reported that he was approached by a subject while waiting to pick someone up at the Metro station and asked to move his vehicle. When he explained he was waiting for someone, the subject used a racial slur and asked him to get out of the vehicle. The victim recorded the subject’s vehicle information and reported it to the police.
- Multiple homes/property were vandalized with anti-black and anti-Arab spray paint. Unknown suspect(s).
- A complainant reported that she discovered a small baggie near her mailbox in the 5th District with a note from a pro-white organization. A neighbor also found a similar baggie on his property. Another report was taken later that day when additional residents in the 5th District found similar bags and propaganda. Unknown suspect(s).

- The victim reported that his vehicle was vandalized with a racial slur. Two separate vandalisms were discovered later in the day with similar paint, but there were no legible words or symbols. Unknown suspect(s).
- Complainants reported that recruitment flyers for a pro-white organization were found on multiple properties throughout the neighborhood.

AUGUST

- The victim reported that he had recently “unfriended” someone on social media and as a result, began receiving anti-Semitic texts from the subject. The victim is not Jewish but would like this incident to be documented.
- The complainant reported that during a security check of a religious organization, he discovered a swastika and other graffiti written in chalk on the side of the building. Other organizations use the facility, and the chalk was left over from a picnic and accessible to everyone in the facility. During the follow-up investigation, the complainant reported that they still believed it was likely one of the children and would use this incident as an educational lesson for the congregation.
- The victim reported that a racial epithet had been spray-painted on the side of his home. He suspected it was related to a conflict his son is having with a classmate. Another home had also been spray-painted, and the classmate was known to the occupants of that residence as well, but that victim did not wish to proceed with an investigation. As a result, there was insufficient evidence to support charges in the single case.
- The victim reported to officers that she had a motor vehicle collision earlier in the day, and the driver of the other vehicle had assaulted her and called her derogatory names because she spoke Spanish. The other driver stated that the interaction was heated, but he did not physically assault her. The victim was instructed how to file charges at the commissioner’s office.
- The victim asked a visitor to move out of his parking spot, but the visitor refused. Another subject came out of the property and began yelling at the victim for yelling at one of his guys and threatened to send the victim “back to your country in a coffin”. The victim left and called the police. Unknown suspect(s).

SEPTEMBER

- The complainant reported that an unknown subject called the church and was critical of how it handles different races of people. The complainant believes the call was related to a statement the church had made on their website, condemning the recent reports of KKK flyers nearby.
- The complainant reported that someone had written anti-Semitic graffiti on one of the banners at the synagogue. A similar incident occurred nearby at Chick-fil-a, and security images helped detectives apprehend the subject quickly.
- The victim reported that he was sitting outside a drugstore when the subject approached him, issued a racial slur, and began assaulting him. There was no video footage of the assault, and the victim was unable to provide any additional details and later became

unresponsive to the detective.

- Multiple victims reported their vehicles had been vandalized by two subjects, who had been seen leaving the scene of one of the vandalisms. The investigation revealed that the connection in each incident seemed to be the high school.

OCTOBER

- High school students reported to the SRO that they were concerned about another student who is known for extreme views who had recently made some threats on social media. MCPD was familiar with this student from previous encounters.
- MCPD officers responded for a noise complaint and could hear someone shouting racial epithets. The subject admitted to the officers that he was angry with his neighbor over a previous issue and frequently used racial slurs toward him.
- Following an incident in which two gentlemen got into an altercation with a neighbor who was screaming at his mother, the complainants began receiving bias-motivated notes at their apartments. Officers explained to the complainants how to get a peace order.
- The victim reported that a subject had pried the mezuzah off his door. The subject admitted to removing it and was charged with vandalism of a religious item.
- A building manager reported that he had just arrived for his shift and discovered the window smashed with a rock that had a homophobic statement written and the name of the previous manager. Unknown suspect(s).
- A high school student reported that a small swastika had been drawn in an unknown substance on a science table. Unknown suspect(s).
- The victim got into a dispute with an unknown coworker about picking up one of the victim's friends to assist them on a job. The unknown subject punched the victim and fled the scene. The victim was instructed how to file charges.
- The victim reported that she was verbally assaulted by an elderly gentleman, who seemed upset about speeding and told her to "go back to her own country". He struck her vehicle with his hands, and spit on her when she got out of the car.
- The victim reported that packages have been stolen from her address since April and that her mezuzah has been vandalized several times.
- The director of a private school reported that another teacher had discovered graffiti on the play wall after dismissal. The graffiti included a swastika, Anime pornography, and the statement "vandalism is cool". Administrators suspected a student who has exhibited this type of behavior in the past, and has some developmental issues. No further action taken by the MCPD.

NOVEMBER

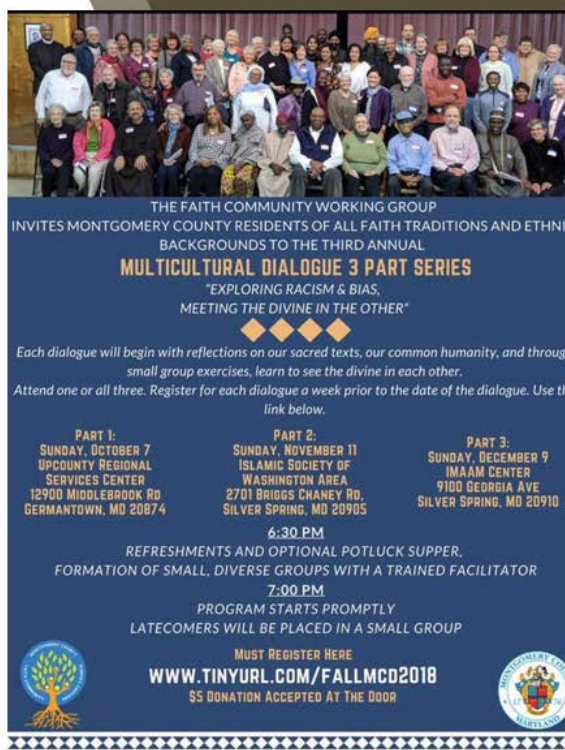
- The director of a synagogue reported that someone had posted a suspicious Google review about the synagogue. Unknown suspect(s).

- The police were called by the victim, who was in an argument with a female subject over a washing machine, and the subject told her to “go back to her own country”. The argument never became physical, so no charges were placed.
- A high school student reported that a small swastika had been drawn in pencil on the bottom of a computer mouse. Unknown suspect(s).
- A Jewish congregation reported that an unknown subject was calling the main office and making obscene, anti-Semitic statements and had threatened violence. Unknown suspect(s).
- The victim reported that a subject entered the business but did not seem like a normal patron. The subject “chest-bumped” the victim and used homophobic slurs. The suspect was arrested and charged with assault.
- A high school athletic director reported that he received an unsolicited message over social media regarding an anti-black statement that appeared to be posted by a student. MCPD officers spoke to the student. MCPS handled discipline internally.
- A victim reported that she was assaulted during a “jam session” by her dance partner, who she believed to be homo- and transphobic. Investigation revealed many discrepancies, and the State’s Attorney’s Office believed there was insufficient evidence to proceed with charges against the named subject. The case was closed by exception.
- The police were called to a restaurant for a disorderly subject using bias-motivated language towards the owners. Suspect was arrested on scene.
- A student told an assistant principal that he wanted to kill his mother and his mother’s girlfriend. School referral to the crisis center was completed.
- A complainant reported that someone has posted various racial slurs and threats on one of the Church’s social media events. Unknown suspect(s).
- A victim reported that he has been receiving threats via social media since 2016 but has recently become worried about it because of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. Unknown suspect(s).

DECEMBER

- A victim reported that while he was visiting a friend, a subject confronted him (on shared property) and yelled numerous racial slurs. Shortly after that, a firearm was shot in the direction of the victim. Subject was arrested.
- A building manager for a middle school reported that several pieces of property had been vandalized with an assortment of bias-motivated language and drawings. Unknown suspect(s).
- A high school security officer reported to the SRO that someone had vandalized the boys’ locker room with anti-Asian, homosexual, and Semitic language. MCPS handled the incident internally.

- A synagogue reported that an email had been sent to the organization, upset that they support the LGBTQ community. Unknown suspect(s).
- The parents of a high school student alerted the principal and SRO that their son had been acting distant lately. When they confiscated his cell phone, they found text messages being sent to their son about being gay. Investigation identified the students sending the messages, but they stated they only do it because they know it makes him angry. Case closed. All parties agreed to mediation.
- A security officer from a private school reported that a teacher found a shoelace crafted into a noose, hanging from a stairwell. Unknown suspect(s).
- Police responded to a high school athletic field for the report that someone had spelled a racial epithet with red Solo cups in a chain link fence. Investigation revealed the cups had been there for a while, but someone had rearranged the cups. Unknown suspect(s).
- A complainant reported that someone had spray painted the banner for a mosque. Unknown suspect(s).



**In 2018, the Faith
Community Working
Group facilitated a
multicultural dialogue
series in which
participants could engage
in anti-bias exercises with
a trained facilitator.**