

# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **2019 ANNUAL REPORT ON BIAS INCIDENTS**

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2019 MCP Annual Report on Bias Incidents compiled by the Policy, Planning, & Quality Assurance Division*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am disappointed to report to you that the incidence of bias crimes in Montgomery County is increasing. As we work to build our multicultural county with understanding and compassion, the trend that we have seen since the 2016 election continues to plague us.

In 2019, there were 114 reported bias incidents, 22.6% more than the number of bias incidents reported in 2018 (93). This is the second highest number of bias-related incidents reported to the MCPD since internal reporting processes changed in 2015, and only 7% less than 2017 when 123 incidents were reported. On average, the department records 9.5 bias incidents per month.

Not only is that total unacceptable to our community, but some of the trends beneath that overall figure are equally disturbing, as our young people increasingly have become both perpetrators and victims of bias incidents and crimes.



In 2019, the category for offenders under the age of 18 increased 38%, despite no school-reported bias incidents during the month of October. At the same time, victims under the age of 35 made up 48.4% of the individual victims identified.

Approximately 52% percent of the reported bias incidents fall into the category of vandalism/graffiti (59 incidents, 103% more than the number of vandalisms in 2018). Twenty-three (39%) of the 59 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.

In the past, I have said the involvement of so many youth in these cases should be a wake-up call to parents, teachers, those working in our community and of course, police officers. 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 people.

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](http://www.fbi.gov)

“(b) (1) Under the authority of section 534 of title 28, United States Code, the Attorney General shall acquire data, for each calendar year, about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, including where appropriate the crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation; arson; and destruction, damage or vandalism of property.

“(2) The Attorney General shall establish guidelines for the collection of such data including the necessary evidence and criteria that must be

present for a finding of manifest prejudice and procedures for carrying out the purposes of this section.

“(3) Nothing in this section creates a cause of action or a right to bring an action, including an action based on discrimination due to sexual orientation. As used in this section, the term ‘sexual orientation’ means consensual homosexuality or heterosexuality. This subsection does not limit any existing cause of action or right to bring an action, including any action under the Administrative Procedure Act or the All Writs Act [5 U.S.C.S. §§ 551 et seq. or 28 U.S.C.S. § 1651].

“(4) Data acquired under this section shall be used only for research or statistical purposes and may not contain any information that may reveal the identity of an individual victim of a crime.

“(5) The Attorney General shall publish an annual summary of the data acquired under this section, including data about crimes committed by, and crimes directed against, juveniles.

“(c) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section through fiscal year 2002.

“Sec. 2. (a) Congress finds that—

“(1) the American family life is the foundation of American Society,

“(2) Federal policy should encourage the well-being, financial security, and health of the American family,

“(3) schools should not de-emphasize the critical value of American family life.

### Matthew Shepard & James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (18 U.S.C. § 249)

This statute gives the FBI authority to investigate violent hate crimes, including violence directed at gay, lesbian, bisexual, and the transgender community.

“(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed, nor shall any funds appropriated to carry out the purpose of the Act be used, to promote or encourage homosexuality.”

## HISTORY

In 1990, Congress passed the *Hate Crime Statistics Act* and as a result, the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program created a hate crime data collection system to comply with this mandate. Lawmakers amended the *Hate Crime Statistics Act* with the *Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994* to include bias against persons with disabilities. Finally, in 2009, Congress passed the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009* and the UCR program expanded its data collection categories for race and ethnicity and began accepting data on crimes motivated by gender and gender identity bias in 2013. The Montgomery County Police Department voluntarily reports statistics to this program.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

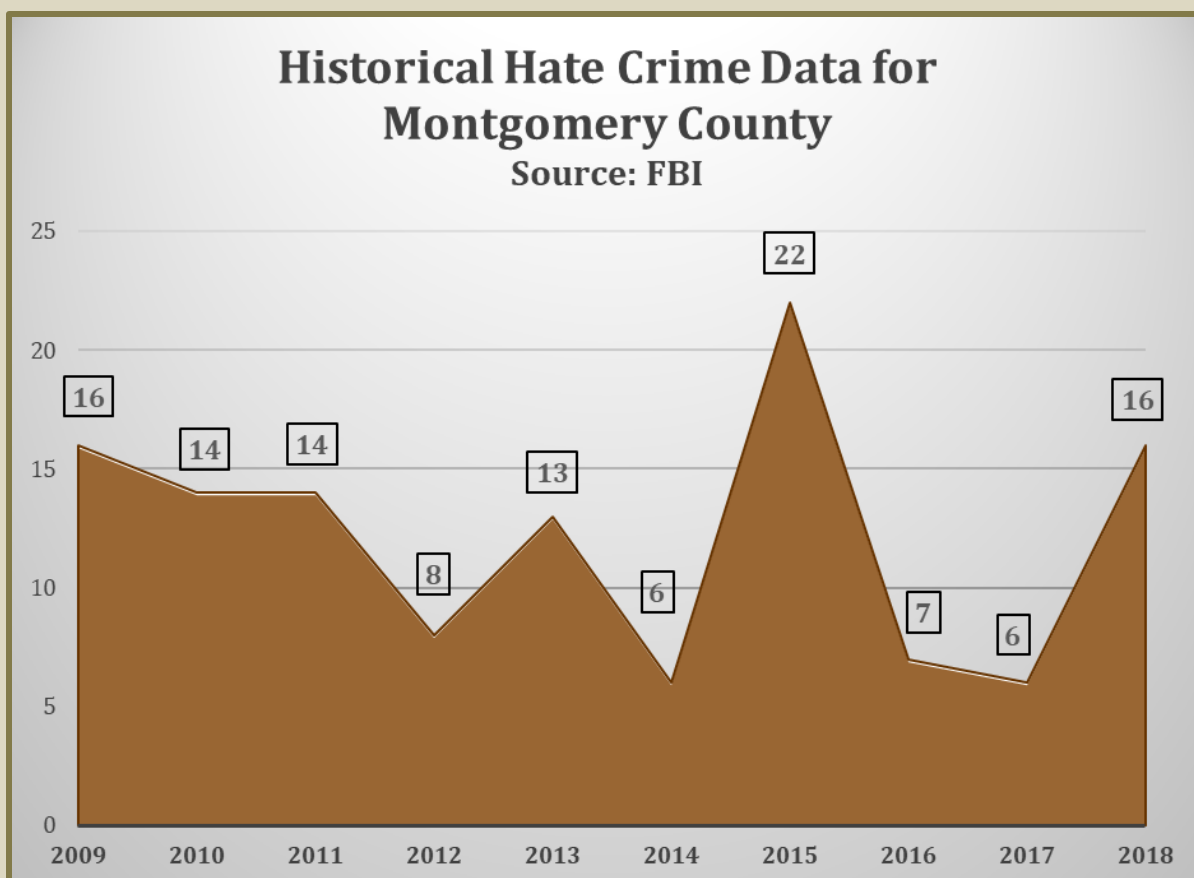
The Montgomery County Police Department's *Annual Report on Bias Incidents* is a report that provides statistical data about all of the incidents and criminal offenses that may be motivated by an offender's bias against a race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In 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 2019, the department recorded 114 bias incidents, including three incidents that occurred in Takoma Park (the Montgomery County Police Department does not report Takoma Park incidents to the state or FBI). This is a 22.6% increase over the 93 incidents reported in 2018. The state and federal governments track and report these incidents differently. As a result, the number of events documented by the department is generally higher than those reported at the state and federal

level. The following chart<sup>1</sup> illustrates the FBI's reporting of hate crimes occurring in Montgomery County. It is important to note that the FBI only reports hate crimes; it does not track incidents of bias.



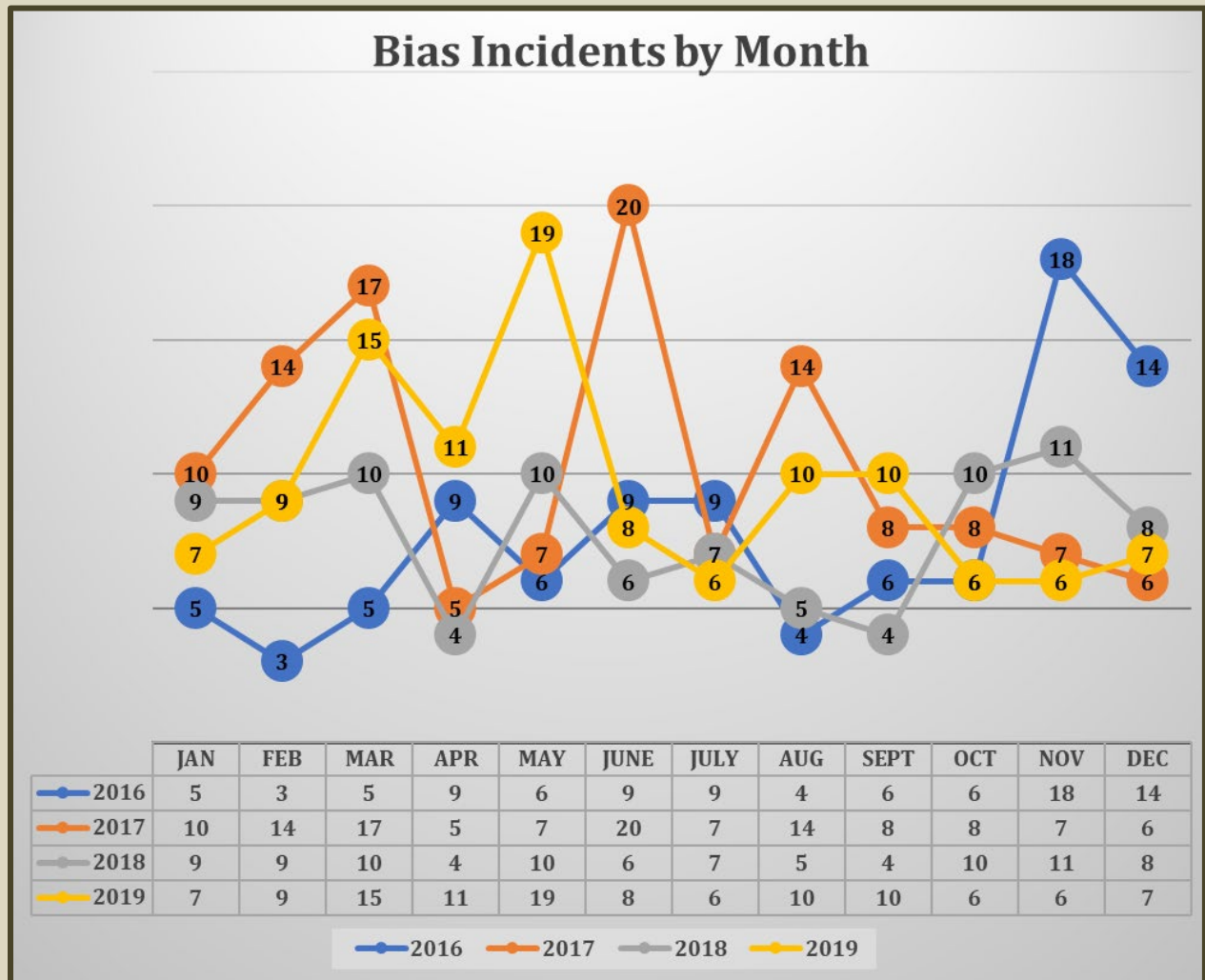
Due to differences in reporting at the local, state, and federal levels, illustrated above, and changes that have been made internally, there is little comparative data available and readers are cautioned against making simplistic comparisons between multiple years, or data and/or other reports from different agencies that might utilize different reporting methodologies. Furthermore, many bias incidents go unreported due to fear or embarrassment, making it difficult to accurately track incidents and establish trends.

While many incidents of bias may not constitute criminal acts, the MCPD understands that acts demonstrating and/or depicting bias may lead to criminal acts and may have a profound impact upon the community. Residents in Montgomery County are encouraged to report all incidents, including non-criminal events, which may single out someone because of that person's perceived race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, or homelessness. This will give the department the opportunity to quantify resource needs and direct resources to areas where they will be most effective. Likewise, other community organizations will be better able to respond to the needs of victims.

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

## REPORTED BIAS INCIDENTS

There were 114 reported bias incidents in 2019, 22.6% more than the number of bias incidents reported in 2018 (93). This is the second highest number of bias-related incidents reported to the MCPD since internal reporting processes changed in 2015, and only 7% less than 2017 when 123 incidents were reported. On average, the department records 9.5 bias incidents per month.



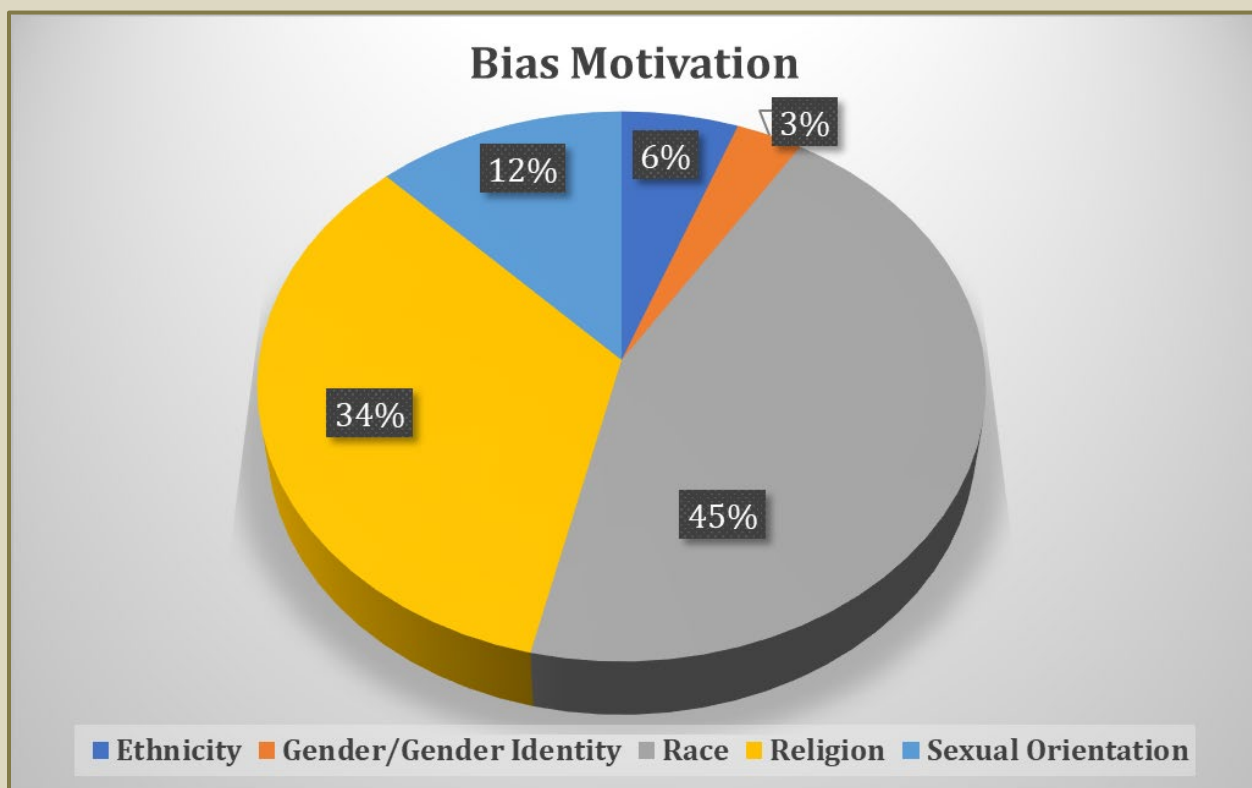
## BIAS MOTIVATION

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 2019, there were more than 1.05 million people living in Montgomery County.

Of the 114 total bias incidents that were recorded in 2019, nine incidents reflected multiple bias motivations. Race and religion continue to be the primary bias motivators (55 and 42 incidents, respectively), then sexual orientation (15 incidents), and ethnicity (7 incidents). Gender bias was a motivation in four incidents.

Within these categories, the following points should be considered:

- Of the 42 incidents motivated by bias towards religion, 85.7% (36) were considered anti-Jewish, despite Jewish persons making up only 10% of the population<sup>2</sup>. The next largest religious bias motivator was anti-Islamic, of which there were only three reports this year, one less than 2018.
- Of the 55 incidents motivated by bias towards a race, 80% (44) were considered anti-black. There were also five multi-racial incidents (vandalism, flyers left behind) in which references to the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist groups were discovered.
- Of the seven incidents motivated by ethnicity bias, five were anti-Hispanic, a number consistent with the reported incidents in 2018.

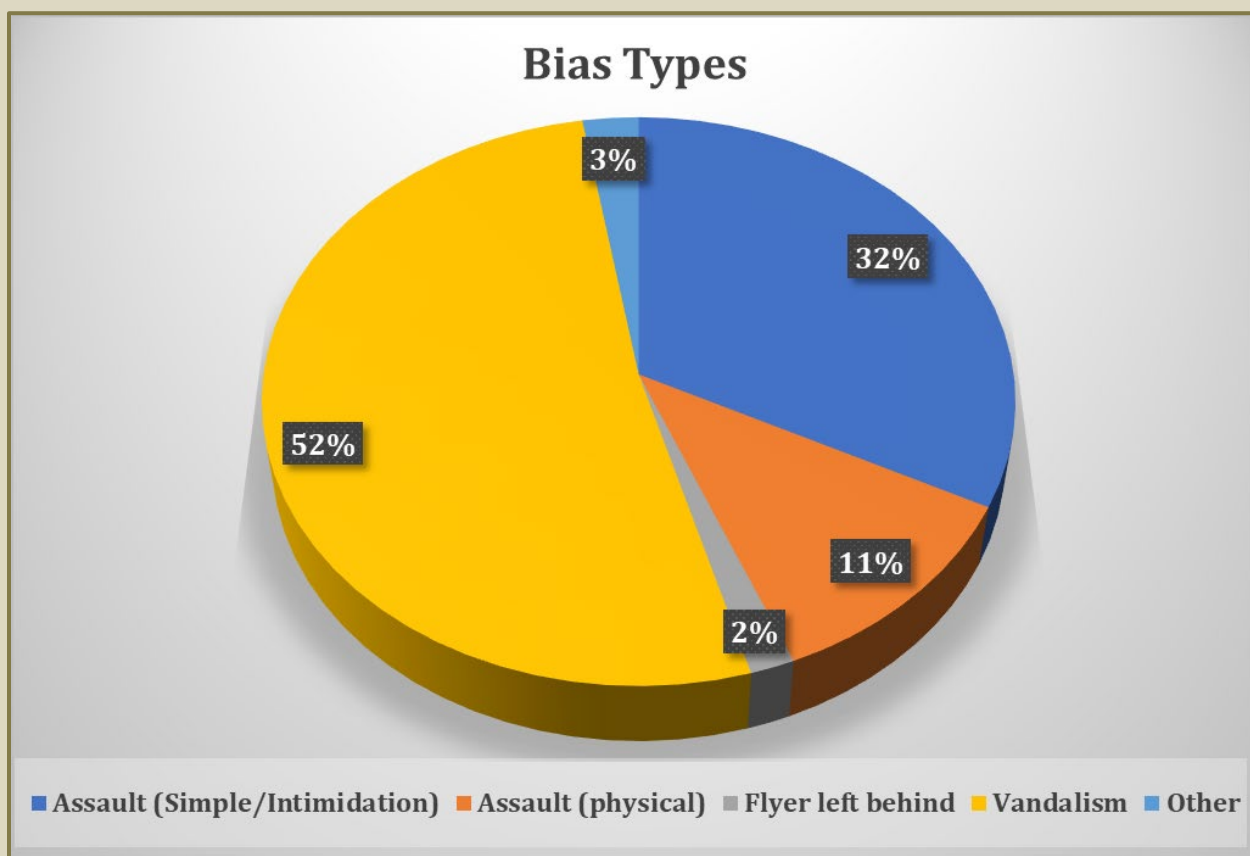


<sup>2</sup> The 2017 Greater Washington, DC Jewish Community Demographic Study (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.shalomdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/DCJewishCommunityStudy021118.pdf>

## TYPES OF BIAS INCIDENTS

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

Approximately 52% of the reported bias incidents fall into the category of vandalism/graffiti (59 incidents, 103% more than the number of vandalisms in 2018). Twenty-three (39%) of the 59 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.

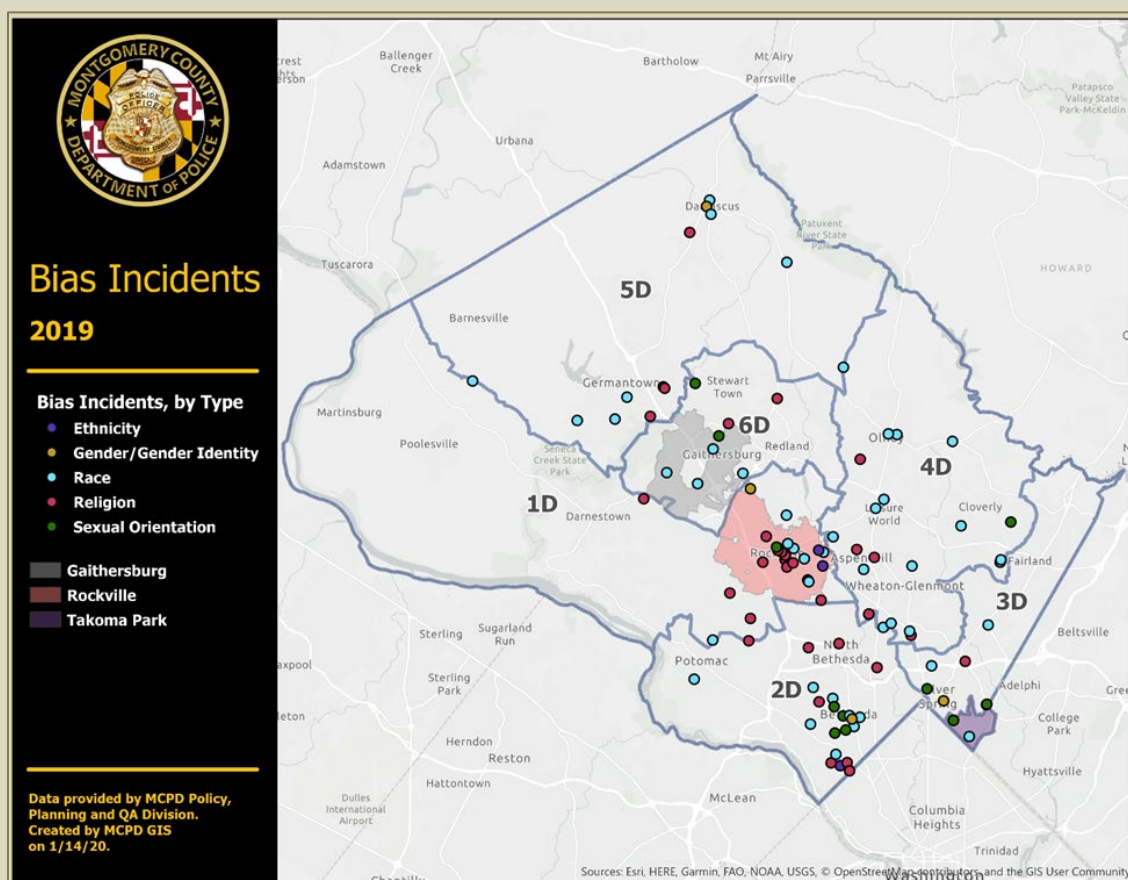
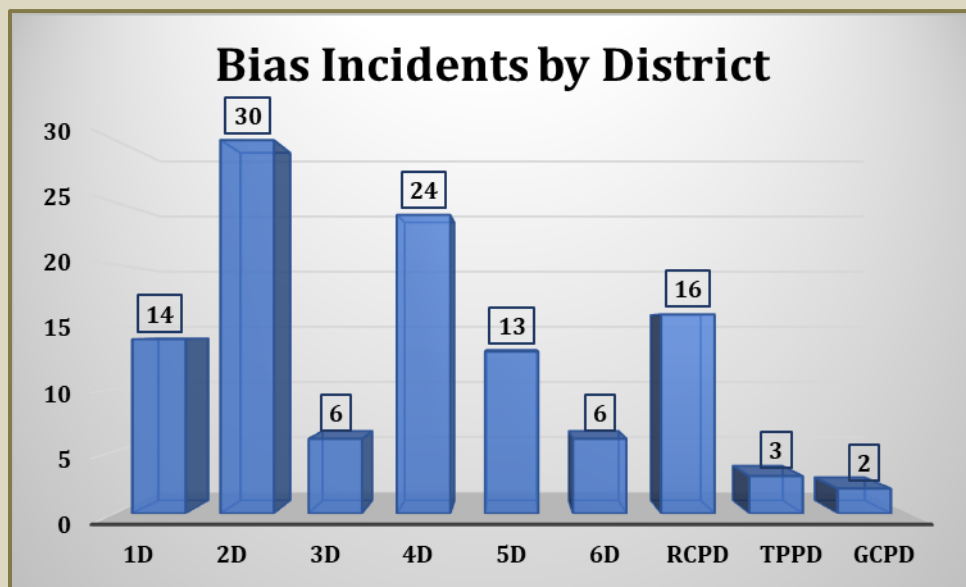


Written intimidation (16%), followed by verbal intimidation (14%) were the next most frequent types of bias incidents reported. Overall, there were 37 incidents involving some form of intimidation (this category is represented as *Assault (Simple/Intimidation)* in the graph above). This includes the use of a noose for the purpose of intimidating in one incident. Social media and/or the use of electronic mail continues to be a contributing factor in many of the written intimidation incidents; 8 of the 18 written intimidation reports (44.4%) involved threats or bias-based language directed towards an individual or organization.

The number of physical assaults reported in 2019 (13 assaults, 14 victims) remained consistent with the numbers reported in 2018 (14 assaults, 15 victims).

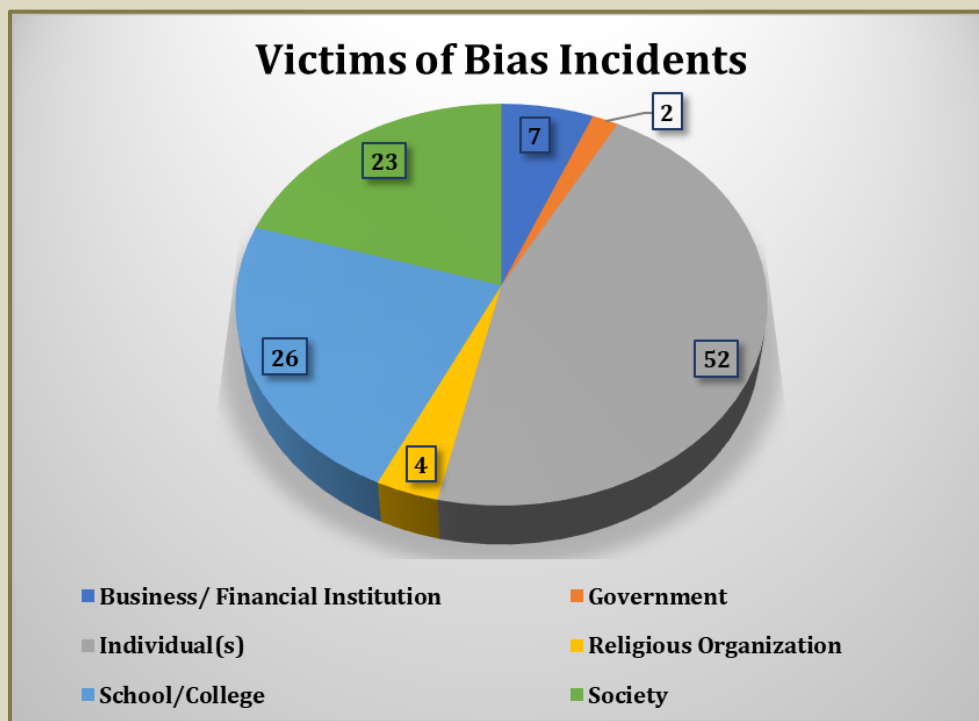
## INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

In 2019, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Districts experienced the highest volume of reported bias incidents with 30 each (the statistics for the 1<sup>st</sup> District include 16 reports taken by the Rockville City Police Department), and the 4<sup>th</sup> District had 24 reported incidents. These three districts account for 74% of the reported incidents.



## VICTIMS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

Of the 114 incidents committed in 2019, there were 52 incidents that were committed against individuals (45.6%); nine (9) of those incidents had multiple victims. Overall, there were 62 individual victims of bias incidents in 2019. The remaining incidents were committed against schools, society, business/financial institutions, religious organizations, and government entities.



In general, the number of incidents in which society was named as the victim increased considerably in 2019 (666%) and may be attributed to the increasing number of vandalisms that were reported.

The number of incidents in which the school was the victim or target of a bias incident (e.g., vandalism) increased 73% from 2018 to 2019, but this increase follows a decline in school-related incidents in 2018, and the most significant year for bias-related incidents in 2017, when there were 32 incidents that targeted schools.

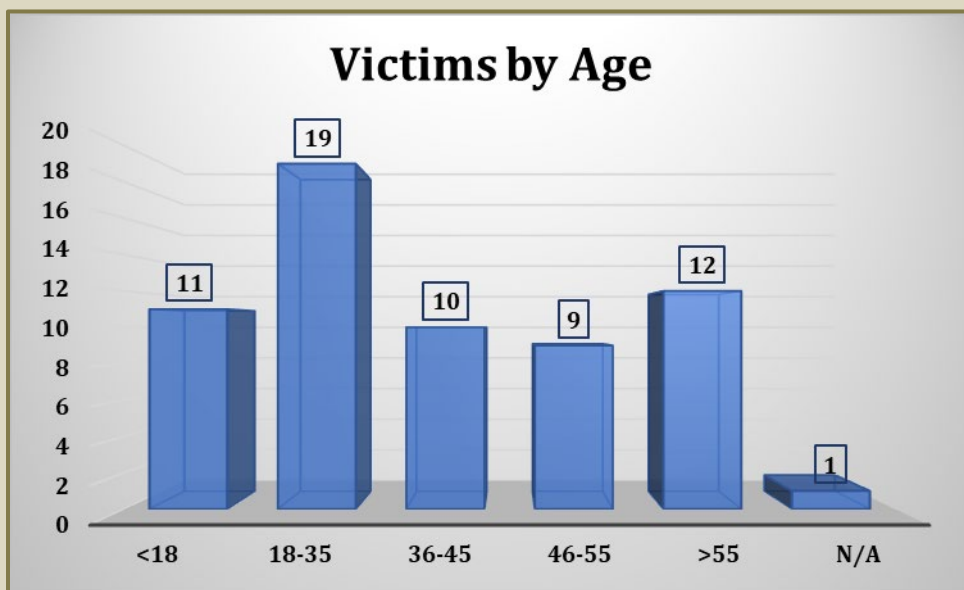
In 2019, there were also six bias-related incidents involving individuals that occurred in or near a school, 45% fewer than 2018. Overall, as a percentage of the total number of bias-related incidents, the number of incidents in which a student at school or a school was targeted stayed the same between 2018 and 2019. In 2019, 50% of the reported incidents occurred at a high school (nine separate high schools accounted for 16 incidents), and nearly 41% occurred at a middle school (eight separate middle schools accounted for 13 incidents).

Of the 32 school-related incidents, 59.4% were anti-Semitic in nature.

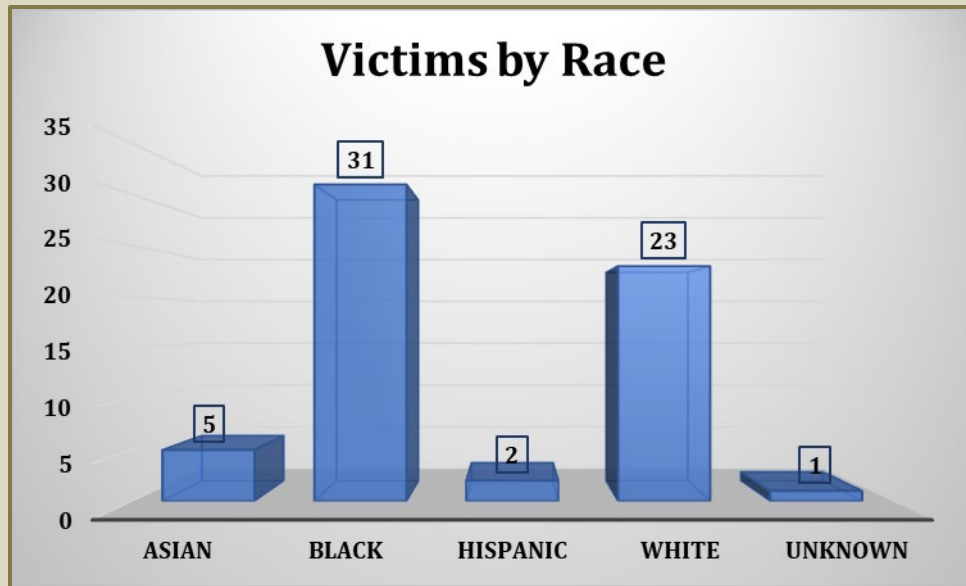
### **Victim Demographics**

Amongst those cases in which specific individuals were victims (62 victims, total), there were 30 female victims and 32 male victims.

Unlike last year when 60% of the victims were 36 years of age or older, victims under the age of 35 made up 48.4% of the individual victims identified. Both the under 18 and 18-35 years of age categories increased in percentage from 2018. There was a slight decline in percentage for victims over 55 years of age following a significant increase in this category last year, but it remains one of the highest victim age categories.



In 2019, there was a shift in the statistics of victims by race. In previous years, 50% or more of the victims identified as Caucasian. This year, only 37.1% of the individual victims were identified as white, while 50% of the victims were identified as black. It is important to distinguish that although there are several incidents that involve the widely used, yet derogatory term for people of color, victims described as black were victims of incidents that were also anti-religious (Islamic), anti-homosexual, and anti-transgender.

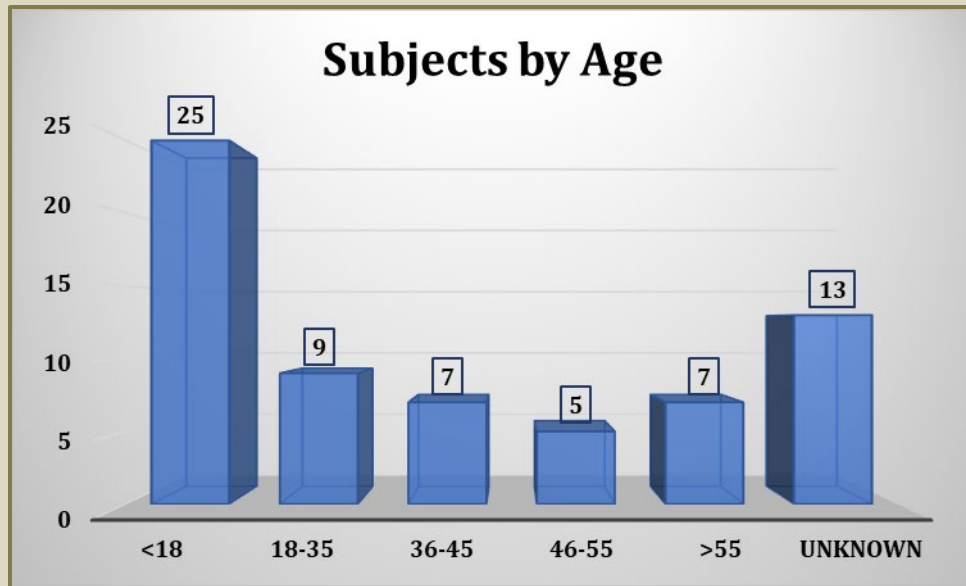


The number of Asian and Hispanic victims in 2019 remained consistent with 2018 statistics.

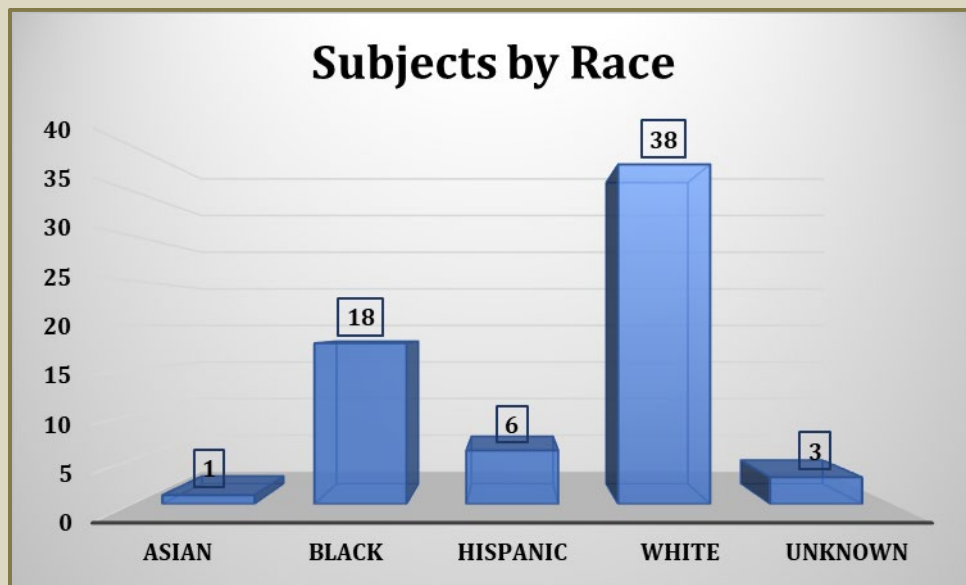
## OFFENDERS OF BIAS INCIDENTS

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 2019, victims were able to provide suspect information in 36.8% of the 114 incidents (42), most of which were for some type of intimidation. There was partial suspect information provided in eight additional incidents. It was later determined through investigation that the subjects in two separate pairs of incidents were likely the same people. Overall, there were 66 subjects developed and/or identified in these 50 incidents. The subjects of these incidents continue to be predominantly male (51). Eleven subjects (nine males and two females) were arrested, closing eight cases.

Additional demographics of the 66 subjects (including partial descriptions) are presented in the next two charts.



There was an 11.3% increase in offenders older than 35 years of age, and the category for offenders under the age of 18 increased 38%, despite no school-reported bias incidents during the month of October.<sup>3</sup>



Historically, the MCPD has recorded more white offenders involved in bias-related incidents than any other race/ethnicity. This was consistent in 2019, and there was a 52% increase in the number of reported white offenders. Black offenders increased as well, 63.6%.

<sup>3</sup> There are generally no bias-related reports from or occurring in the schools during the months of July to September.

## 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 highest levels of county government, and continues to promote 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, works 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 in a community. Communication and interaction are often a key factor in preventing tension or restoring peace. Every interaction with the public is an opportunity to build relationships and trust with the community. The department's Public Information Office helps prevent an increase in tension throughout the community by informing public attitudes about such incidents, the offenders, and the law enforcement response. The MCPD Community Engagement Division, which oversees the community service officers and school resource officers, ensures that investigative follow-up, victim assistance (when applicable), and collaboration is provided in all bias-motivated events immediately, to mitigate the effects of bias and hate on the community.

*A sample of the many events showcasing the diversity of Montgomery County, and attended by the Montgomery County Police in order to build relationships with the community they serve.*



In 2019, the MCPD hosted, facilitated, and attended more than 2,100 events throughout the County; at least 28% 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.). Montgomery County police officers and command staff were present at numerous cultural and ethnic festivals throughout the year, as well as townhall-style events and community forums that addressed serious matters, such as racial equity. And the MCPD also continued to provide security assessments to local churches and synagogues and offered more than 120 *Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events* (CRASE) training/prevention programs to schools, religious organizations, and businesses in 2019.

Although all these 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. 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. The MCPD 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 MCPD 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 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.

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 apps.
- Monitor your child's social media sites, apps, 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 re-set 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](http://StopBullying.gov) for tips on recognizing it.



#### Montgomery County Police Department District Stations

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

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

## **APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF 2019 BIAS INCIDENTS**

### **JANUARY**

- Officers responded to a construction site for the report of anti-black graffiti and swastikas inside a portable bathroom. Unknown subject(s).
- Unknown subject(s) vandalized two religious statues at a Catholic church.
- Unknown subject(s) distributed a series of pro-Christian flyers which included references to homosexuality as a sin.
- A complainant reported that she observed three unknown subjects burning something and chanting about the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) near a high school.
- High school security officers discovered a swastika had been spray painted on an exterior wall near the exit for the boys' locker room. Unknown subject(s).
- Unknown subject(s) vandalized the doorways, another statue, and several out-buildings of a Catholic church.
- The victim reported that her boyfriend had been videotaping and photographing her without her knowledge and was threatening to send the videos/photos to the victim's mother. Investigation determined this was not a bias-related offense.

### **FEBRUARY**

- High school security officers discovered a small swastika had been drawn in pencil on a desk. The student who sits there was interviewed and admitted to drawing it during a lesson on World War II. The school handled this incident internally.
- A high school history teacher discovered a swastika had been drawn in pencil on a desk. The same teacher had found a swastika made out of tape on the floor in the class a week prior. Interviews were conducted, but there was no evidence discovered that this was hate-related; classes are beginning to cover material related to WWII.
- Four high school students were handing out "permission slips" to use racial epithets. School administrators handled this internally. A few days later, the School Resource Officer (SRO) became aware that memes related to the original incident were being air dropped into students' phones, again giving students the permission to use the epithets. The school also handled this internally.
- Officers responded to the report of vandalism in a park. They discovered an orange, spray painted swastika on a boulder near the entrance, and additional graffiti, including a racial epithet and a penis, in other nearby locations. Unknown subject(s).
- A complainant reported that a noose was found hanging in a construction site following an employee meeting. Unknown subject(s).
- An officer was called to a middle school regarding a student who had placed anti-Semitic memes on his Google classroom page. The student was interviewed, and the officer believed

that the student did not mean any harm or ill-will toward the Jewish community, the school, or other students. The student's mother reported he had recently been distraught over a family-related trauma. The student was remorseful, and the school handled the incident internally.

- The victim responded to the station and reported that he was in a road rage incident earlier that afternoon when another driver became angry that the victim couldn't move his car out of the way due to traffic. When the victim did move over, the suspect screamed at him and shouted racial slurs. The victim followed him to get the license plate information and began filming the suspect. The suspect became more irate and got out of his vehicle, threatened the victim with additional racial slurs, and drove off. Officers were able to identify the suspect through the video. The district court commissioner issued charges for 2nd Degree Assault and Disturbing the Peace - Hindering Passage.
- The victim, a contractor for Montgomery County, reported that a County employee/supervisor approached the bathroom stall he was using and told him he shouldn't be using this bathroom. The victim also reported that the supervisor has previously told him, "I don't want your kind in the bathroom". The victim believes he is being discriminated against because he is an asexual male.
- [The victim was found lying next to a dumpster.](#) He stated that two subjects approached him after he parked his car and demanded his wallet, using a homophobic slur. His phone and wallet were taken. Unknown subjects.

## MARCH

- A middle school principal notified an SRO that a student had discovered a swastika carved into a tabletop in art class. The school handled communication and removal of the swastika. Unknown subject(s).
- A high school principal reported to an SRO that he was assisting a student on the autism spectrum when he discovered a hand-written note giving the student permission to use racial epithets (related to the incident that occurred in February). The SRO talked to the student and his parents. The student did not understand the meaning of the note. No administrative actions were taken.
- A high school SRO was notified by security that anti-black graffiti was discovered in a men's bathroom. School was not in session at the time, and it was unknown how long the graffiti had been there.
- A private school principal reported that another student sent two anti-Semitic photos through social media to another student, who is Jewish. The school suspended the student.
- USPS employees reported that someone had written a racial epithet using white letters on the side of a mailbox. Unknown subject(s).
- A complainant reported that while inside a business, an unknown female asked him if he spoke English. When he responded affirmatively, she threatened him and left. Officers responded, but the subject was not on scene. No subject developed.

- The victim reported to police that when he arrived home, there was a mess of various food items (kimchi, Asian chili sauce, lentils, oats, etc.) all over his garage doors, front door and steps, walkway, and driveway. Due to the kimchi and chili sauce, the victim thought this was a racially motivated offense and reported it. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported that he discovered a note with "KKK" on the windshield of his vehicle and the responding officer also observed "KKK" written on his door. Using video footage from a nearby Ring doorbell, the suspect was identified as neighbor. The neighbor admitted to the note and stated that it was because the victim always harasses him from his balcony. A citation was issued for Malicious Destruction of Property less than \$1k (CR 6-301).
- The victim reported that he had been verbally assaulted two times this week by the suspect, who was using curse words and racially derogatory language. The victim challenged him, and the suspect grabbed a knife and lunged at the victim. The victim defended himself with a folding chair. The fight was broken up and shelter staff notified. Both were advised to file charges with the commissioner.
- An officer on patrol in the 6<sup>th</sup> District was informed of an injured person struck by a car at the Islamic Center of Maryland. Surveillance footage and evidence from the scene was obtained. A couple of days later, another incident occurred at a mosque in the 5<sup>th</sup> District (below), which detectives believed to be connected.
- The victim reported that he saw a vehicle circle the mosque, and a short time later, heard a crash. The victim observed the suspect throw a brick at his car multiple times. Another car also had front-end damage. Detectives believed this was related to the prior incident, as well as an incident that occurred later that day in Virginia, in which the subject struck and killed a pedestrian. [The suspect was identified and arrested.](#)
- The victim reported that she received several harassing phone calls containing racial epithets and sexual innuendos from a blocked number, which the victim believed to be the pizza delivery driver, whom she had a disagreement with and refused to tip. Officers interviewed the restaurant owner and delivery driver, who denied making the calls. Officers subpoenaed Comcast and learned the incoming number was a spoof. The victim has not received any more calls. Case suspended pending any more leads.
- A high school assistant principal reported that unknown student(s) hacked a promethean board during a history class, so that when the board was turned on, there was a column containing multiple rows of racial epithets. The incident was videoed and posted on social media, but the school was unable to determine who hacked the board and posted the words.
- The victim was at the library with her children and was speaking in Spanish in the restroom. Another woman in the restroom asked if they spoke Spanish and when the victim responded affirmatively, the woman began screaming at them to leave the country, shoved the victim, shook her fist and said she would hit her if she didn't stop talking about her. Video from the library was used to help identify the subject and the officer applied for charges.
- A high school athletic director reported that the athletic field, dugouts, pavement, and windscreens had been vandalized with black and blue spray paint that contained cursing

and racially sensitive language. The director believed that this was related to a baseball game in which the school's students were allegedly chanting slurs at a Hispanic player. No subject(s) information available.

#### APRIL

- The victim reported to officers that he and his friend were having an argument amongst themselves when the suspect began yelling various homosexual slurs towards him. The victim began yelling back and the suspect punched him. The officer applied for 2nd degree assault and hate crime charges.
- A high school assistant principal reported that a student had made threats towards other students who participated in an event that recognized the hardships of the LGBTQ community. When the student was interviewed, he stated that he was only joking and would never harm anyone. Administrative sanctions were imposed.
- The Rockville City Police Department responded to a report of obscenities spray painted on a sign. However, the officer found an electronic message board that had been programmed to display a racial epithet. The officer was able to reset it, but an hour later, someone programmed it with a 9/11-related statement. The officer removed the keyboard and notified the owners. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim, an attorney who had recently served legal paperwork on a subject who resides in Arizona, began receiving profane, anti-Semitic emails from him. The subject also stated that he was going to stop by his office when he was on the east coast. The victim was advised to tell the suspect to stop all communication and to seek a peace order.
- It was reported to a high school SRO that a group of students working on math problems spelled a racial epithet on a calculator. The school handled this incident internally.
- The complainant reported that her husband had noticed that there was anti-Semitic vandalism in the stairwell between the 15th floor and rooftop. No leads, unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported that one of her roommates locked another roommate out. When the victim asked the roommate about it, the subject slammed down her sandwich, gave her the middle finger, pushed her, and used a racial epithet. The subject initially denied it, but admitted that she had been drinking. The victim was referred to the commissioner.
- A church reported that they had received a message from a subject complaining that the church's display of a rainbow flag is a show of support for the LGBT community, and if the flags weren't removed, additional action would be taken. The subject used to be a member of the church but left in 2014. Officers made contact with the subject, who denied sending the email. The case was suspended, pending additional information.
- A high school principal reported that a video of two girls with black facial masks and a racially sensitive caption circulated social media over the weekend. [The school handled the incident internally.](#)
- The victim was found walking down the street with dried blood on his face and stated that

he was attacked for being gay. The victim had no marks or bruises, appeared intoxicated, and became uncooperative. Unknown subject(s).

- The complainant reported that someone had drawn a swastika and a penis and written a pro-White statement in the dust/pollen covering a vehicle that had been parked for an extended period of time.

## **MAY**

- A complainant reported to police that someone had written a racial epithet on the storm drain wall. Unknown subject(s).
- The MCPD was called for reports of multiple vandalisms containing racial epithets and other inappropriate language, along with several spray-painted penises. Video from a nearby hardware store was obtained, potentially showing suspects buying the spray paint. School staff was able to identify the five boys, and all were charged with malicious destruction of property. The State's Attorney's Office did not believe this to be a hate crime.
- The complainant reported that disparaging and anti-transgender remarks about her younger sister had been spray painted across multiple exterior walls of a vacant restaurant. The sister identified a possible suspect, and detectives believed it was related to the earlier incident of neighborhood vandalism. The case was closed administratively with the arrest of five subjects in that case.
- The police were called by a homeowner for vandalism of an unknown type on the side of his house. The homeowner did not know what the image was, but his daughter felt it was a hate crime towards the family because her brother is a homosexual male. An attempt to determine what the images conveyed was unsuccessful. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported that her mother was physically abusing her because she does not agree with her sexuality. The mother was interviewed and stated she does not hit her daughter. The investigation did not reveal any evidence to substantiate the allegations made by the daughter. The mother and daughter were recommended to the Crisis Center for additional services.
- An anonymous caller reported that a swastika was spray painted in the roadway. Unknown subject(s).
- The complainant reported that she had discovered five swastikas created with staples on the apartment complex's playground. Unknown subject(s).
- A middle school principal reported that someone had drawn a swastika and anti-Semitic writings in pencil above a urinal. Unknown subject(s).
- A citizen reported to the officer on patrol that there was some graffiti containing anti-political and anti-Hispanic slurs on the side of a building. Unknown subject(s).
- An SRO was notified by a high school student that a swastika had been scratched into the wall in a boys' bathroom. Unknown subject(s).

- A middle school principal reported that someone had drawn a swastika with a pencil on the inside exit door of the boys' restroom. Unknown subject(s).
- The complainant reported that she discovered two swastikas, the Star of David, and anti-Semitic and anti-homosexual writings in chalk on the basketball court at a middle school. Unknown subject(s).
- An elementary school security officer reported that chalk writings referring to Armenian genocide were discovered outside the kindergarten wing. The officer stated that the children frequently leave the chalk outside, so anyone could have done it. Unknown subject(s).
- A middle school principal reported that a student found a drawing of a swastika and other anti-Semitic statements written on a desk in pencil. Unknown subject(s).
- An elementary school principal reported that the lunch monitor noticed two swastikas drawn in chalk on the outside of the building in an area where students are permitted to draw with chalk. Unknown subject(s).
- Parents reported to police that their daughter began receiving anti-homosexual threats through Instagram from a student at another school. The victim was not sure what prompted the message and thought perhaps it was a post she made last year about a gay pride parade. The subject has been known to make homophobic comments in the past. The SRO spoke to the subject and his parents, who were shocked. The subject began crying, saying he didn't know why he did what he did. He did not know the victim, but only "followed" her on social media because they have friends in common. The victim and her father were satisfied and did not want to file charges.
- The complainant reported that an unknown subject(s) had spray painted a racial epithet on the street. Unknown subject(s).
- An SRO was notified by high school security that someone had written inappropriate statements, including anti-Semitic words, in pen/marker in a few different areas. Unknown subject(s).
- A middle school principal reported that a student discovered a swastika drawn in pencil on the door of the boy's restroom. Unknown subject(s).

## JUNE

- Officers responded to the library, where the complainant stated the library was trying to ban her because she is a transgender. The library employee explained that the complainant had damaged a laptop. The complainant continued acting disorderly and was trespassed from the library for 90 days.
- A middle school principal reported that a staff member discovered what appeared to be a swastika in the girl's restroom. There have been similar incidents in which swastikas have been found in the boys' restroom. The school held a presentation that explained what the swastika represents. The principal believed this was a "copycat" incident since it has been an issue for the last few weeks.

- The complainant contacted the police and reported that an unknown subject(s) spray painted racial slurs on the walls and elevator of the parking garage. A car was also vandalized, but not with racial graffiti. Gang-related graffiti was also present.
- The victim reported that he had been assaulted by three black males, whom he knew by sight, but was not friends with. The subjects frequently tell him to "go back to where he came from" and that he doesn't belong here. When the officer knocked on the residence, the woman who answered the door told him only to speak to their attorney. The officer provided the victim with information to file for assault charges and apply for a protection order.
- Officers responded to the property to investigate a burglary. The following morning, an employee discovered a racial epithet written on a white board by the clubhouse. Unknown subject(s).
- Officers responded for a burglary call at a vacant home being renovated. Unknown subject(s) had entered the home and left behind graffiti, including a swastika and anti-Semitic language.
- Officers responded to a church for the report of anti-religious graffiti painted in red paint on the side of the building. A wider area canvass revealed additional graffiti near the Aspen Hill shopping center and at the dead end of Palmira Lane. The graffiti was identical red color, and included additional random letters, words, and symbols. Unknown subject(s).
- Officers responded to a call for people arguing. The victim reported that she attempted to break up a fight between two males and was struck in the eye by one of them. The first male subject reported that he got into a verbal altercation with the other male after leaving the Pride festivities, when the other male approached him and directed anti-homophobic slurs at him. The male subject lost his temper and swung at the other male but struck the female instead. Officers issued a case number and referred everyone to the commissioner to file for charges.

## JULY

- MCPD officers were dispatched to a weapons call. The victim reported that another vehicle pulled up next to him at an intersection and yelled racial slurs and brandished a large knife. The other vehicle continued to follow the victim, and the victim observed the driver extend his arm as if he was holding a gun. The victim pulled into a parking lot and was able to lose the other vehicle. Officers circulated the area with no success. The description on the vehicle registration matches the description provided by the victim. The victim was provided a case number and advised the incident would be documented.
- The victim reported that he received threatening text messages containing racial slurs from an unknown number. The sender also implied that he/she had been watching the victim and his residence. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported that she was driving home and was waiting at a traffic light when she heard someone repeatedly chanting a racial epithet. The victim realized it was the male driver of the vehicle next to her. When they got to the next light, the derogatory chanting

continued. The victim was able to get a tag and vehicle description. An officer went to the registered address and observed the vehicle, but the subject denied the altercation.

- An officer responded to the local park for the report of a vandalism, in which someone had written an anti-Semitic statement on the sidewalk in chalk. Unknown subject(s).
- An officer investigated an anonymous report of a swastika spray painted on the street. The swastika did not appear to be directed at any specific house and was found in a location heavily littered with beer cans, trash, and other debris. Unknown subject(s).
- Officers responded for a road rage incident, and the complainant reported that he passed a tractor and was almost run off the road by a white male, who confronted him and used a racial epithet. Officers were unable to reach the complainant for follow-up. Unknown subject(s).

## AUGUST

- The complainant reported that he noticed vandalism, including a racial epithet, on a sidewalk across the street from his house. During the investigation, the officer found additional vandalism. However, it was determined that this was not an incident of bias/hate, but rather gang-tagging.
- The complainant reported that a subject swung a golf club at her outside their apartment, but he did not hit her. The argument has been ongoing for a few weeks, and the victim believes the subject said something about white people. When officers made contact with the complainant two weeks later, she stated that she did not wish to pursue this further or have the police take any action.
- The complainant reported to officers that she received a video through Facebook from a friend in another state. The video showed a young white male holding a long gun. The male states that he hates black people and associates them with a certain type of sneaker. The unknown male proceeds to shoot several rounds into a sneaker box.
- The victim reported to officers that neighbors discovered her car vandalized with political and anti-homosexual slang written in black marker. Officers discovered a second victim during the canvas, who had a signpost in his yard that contained political rhetoric and a penis drawn in black marker. Unknown subject(s).
- The complainant reported that his son was playing basketball by himself when he heard someone use a racial epithet. A Hispanic male and female on bicycles were nearby. The son wasn't sure if it was intended for him, but his father believed it was possible, due to the climate. The father did not wish to pursue anything further.
- The complainant reported that her mother was walking towards her vehicle in the driveway when a white male drove by and yelled a racial epithet out the window. Unknown subject(s).
- The complainant reported that sometime during the overnight hours, unknowns subject(s) entered the property and carved a swastika into the green on Hole 7.

- The complainant reported that in an "Employee Only" area, someone had taken a company picnic flyer and added in a "featured guest" section that contained anti-minority rhetoric. The complainant notified MCPD due to the risk of a shooting or other hate crime occurring at the picnic. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported that while she was crossing the street, a white female nearly struck her, honked her horn, and yelled at her to "go back to your country". The subject was identified through the victim's cell phone recording. The victim was advised how to pursue a protection order.
- The complainant reported that during the overnight hours, an unknown subject(s) painted the side of one of his family's vehicle with anti-homosexual slurs. Unknown subject(s).

## SEPTEMBER

- The complainant reported she noticed numerous swastikas and "KKK" markings on the public sidewalk. The officer also noted KKK drawn on two utility poles with a crayon. Unknown subject(s).
- The complainant walked into the 1D station lobby to report that after visiting a patient at the hospital and upon returning to his vehicle in the parking garage, he found a yellow sticky note with a racial epithet on his car. Hospital security reports that the cameras were unable to pick up a subject(s) placing the note.
- Officers responded to the grocery store for the report of an assault. A husband and wife stated they had been using the blood pressure machine when they were attacked and cursed at by a store employee for no reason. The store employee reported that she had informed them that the store was closed, but they could finish up the blood pressure read. When they initiated another test, she unplugged the machine and asked them to leave the store. The couple rushed toward the store employee, shouting racial slurs and cursing, and a scuffle ensued. Officers were unable to determine the primary aggressor, so both parties were given instructions on obtaining charges.
- The complainant reported that her and her friends discovered "KKK" written in blue chalk on the sidewalk by a mailbox. There were similar markings written on a tree stump across the street and a light pole down the road. Public works notified for cleanup. Unknown subject(s).
- The police were called because witnesses reported seeing two subjects drive onto school property in separate cars, exit their vehicles in front of the school, and begin yelling at each other. The female subject yelled and kicked the male subject's car, then began walking towards the school. The male subject ran up behind her and began assaulting her, then got in his car and left. The female subject entered the school and reported she was on her way to the school and became involved in a road rage incident in which the subject threatened to shoot her, spit on her vehicle, and followed her to the school. The school video confirms the assault in the lot. Officers filed for charges against the male subject.
- Two victims reported that during the overnight hours, someone had written anti-Semitic and anti-homosexual comments on their vehicles. One vehicle also had a dent in the roof. Unknown subject(s). Investigation was suspended, pending additional information.

- The victim reported that when he looked out the window at his truck, he noticed someone had written a racial epithet in the dew on the truck bed cover. The victim believes it occurred between 6:00-7:00am when the high school students walk to school. Neighborhood video didn't capture anything suspicious. Unknown subject(s).
- The complainant walked into the 1D station and reported that a person was observed driving and exiting a vehicle that had anti-Semitic signs taped in the rear window.
- The complainant, who had been car-sitting for the victim, reported that on two occasions, someone had scratched the car with an unknown tool. The first time, it looked like scribbles; the second time was a swastika. Unknown subject(s).
- The victim reported to police that someone had written anti-gay graffiti in black marker on her vehicle. Unknown subject(s).

## **OCTOBER**

- An anonymous caller reported anti-black graffiti had been written on the street and a nearby sign. Unknown subject(s).
- Officers responded to a call involving threats being issued. The investigation revealed that several boys had been assaulting and taunting the complainant's daughter. When he had gone outside to speak to them, they started yelling at him and used ethnic slurs. The complainant grabbed one of the boys by the jacket and called the police. A mother of one of the boys arrived and struck the complainant in the head, causing a laceration. Other neighbors came to his defense, and the mother spit on one of them. Officers instructed the complainant and neighbors how they could apply for charges and get a peace order.
- A church reported that someone had rearranged the letters on their signboard to display a racial epithet. Unknown subject(s).
- A security guard at a grocery store reported to officers that he was approached by a female who he recognized as the daughter of someone he had trespassed earlier in the week. The female demanded to know his name and badge number, then exited the store. The security guard observed the female subject standing next to a vehicle near his own. A short time later, the security guard discovered that someone had scratched a racial epithet into the front driver's side door. The activity was caught on video. Officers interviewed the mother and her daughter, who confirmed that she did scratch the vehicle at her mother's direction, and that she used the epithet as slang "to describe someone who is foul". The officers filed charges against the mother and the daughter for malicious destruction of property.
- Officers were dispatched to a vandalism call and discovered that someone had spray painted a racial epithet on the sidewalk in front of an office that had a "Black Lives Matter" sign posted.
- An officer noticed a business card promoting closed borders and pro-white propaganda that had been left at a local establishment. The officer removed the card and disposed of it.

## **NOVEMBER**

- A parent reported that his daughter and two other middle school students have been repeatedly harassed by another student who used racial epithets toward them and implied physical harm when they would object. The officers documented the incident, per the conversation with the parent.
- An officer took a report of suspicious activity involving a vehicle displaying anti-Semitic rhetoric.
- The victim reported that she noticed two strangers near her car and shortly thereafter, discovered that her car had been vandalized. The victim also stated that her car had been vandalized overnight by an unknown subject and that she felt targeted because no other cars had been damaged.
- A high school assistant principal and SRO interviewed a student who had written a derogatory and anti-Semitic slur next to another student's name on a sign-in sheet and the student was offended. The subject reported that he and the student had a history together, but he was directed to stop talking to her last year. He recently became angry and jealous and stated that he wrote the words to upset her. The parents told the assistant principal that they would try to obtain a peace order.
- Officers were dispatched for a disorderly subject. A community member stated that the subject had come into his driveway and was yelling, but this was not uncommon. Officers gave the complainant information to assist in getting a peace order. Several hours later, officers were dispatched back to the location for the disorderly subject again. This time, the complainant had videotaped the subject coming onto his property and yelling. Another witness came forward and told officers he had observed the subject yelling in the street all day and using racial epithets. The officer applied for charges.
- A middle school principal was notified by teacher that a swastika was written on a science desk. Several potential students were identified. The school handled this internally.

## **DECEMBER**

- A middle school principal reported that staff discovered a swastika on a hand dryer in the boys' restroom, along with racial epithets on a stall door and sign. Unknown subject(s).
- A middle school principal reported that a student was observed writing "Nazi" and "Hail Hitler" on a bathroom wall. Another student told him to stop, so he scribbled over it. The student, who is part of an emotional disabilities program, confirmed his actions to the principal and stated that it was a stupid choice that he tried to reverse. The school handled the incident internally.
- A high school security officer notified the SRO of racially motivated graffiti found on a clipboard inside a classroom. The school later notified the officer that they had identified the student and would handle it internally.
- A middle school student opened a Chromebook and noted that someone had written "Hammer Skins" and a swastika. The school investigated but was unable to determine who did it.

- Officers responded to a business for a subject who was demanding to see the owner to discuss payment of services. The complainant would not give the subject any information, and as the subject was leaving, he used a racial epithet towards the complainant, who felt threatened and called the police.
- Officers responded to an assault call, in which the victim of the bias incident reported that the driver of a cab that she had hailed began making trans-phobic slurs towards her and refusing to drive. The victim stated she got out of the car and yelled at the driver, who exited the vehicle and punched her. The driver stated that when he asked the passenger to pay, she stated she didn't have any money, so he refused to drive. The driver said the passenger exited the vehicle and began assaulting him, so he shoved her, and she fell, then ran away and came back with a knife. The officers concluded that this was a mutual assault and referred both parties to the commissioner for charges.
- The complainant reported to police that she became involved in an argument at the gym and the subject used profanity and racial slurs towards her. Witnesses reported that the complainant had been yelling profanities and racial slurs at the subject and threw water in his face. The subject stated he replied with a racial slur. Insufficient evidence to place any charges.