

# **BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

## **HATE INCIDENTS REPORT**

**July, 2011 – June, 2012**

In August 1990, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously approved an amendment to the Bloomington Human Rights Ordinance, which gave the City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission the explicit authority to collect data and issue reports on hate incidents in our community. The Commission accepts reports from police departments, individuals, groups and the media. We also accept anonymous reports. Our goal is not to investigate these incidents, as we do not have the training, authority or resources to conduct these types of investigations. Rather, our goals are to serve as a referral resource and sounding board for victims, to work with community groups to coordinate responses to hate incidents when appropriate and to make our community more aware of the prevalence of hate incidents through issuing these annual reports.

Please note that some of the language in these reports might be offensive. We feel it is necessary to include the actual language in order to convey the true ugliness of these incidents.

In August 2011 a visitor to the office reported that when he asked a Latina to leave the place of public accommodation where he works, because she was yelling and causing a scene, she called him "racist."

In September 2011 we received reports from numerous sources saying that someone wrote "criminals deport" on a picture of a Latino McDonald's employee in a newspaper. The newspaper was at Indiana University's La Casa Latino Culture Center. Someone also used magnetic letters to spell out "You need to leave" on La Casa's refrigerator. La Casa held a town meeting to respond to the incidents.

In September 2011 we received a report from a Japanese individual. He said he was walking on campus when he heard a passing car yell at him, "... country, you fucking Japanese." He said the voice sounded like a woman or young boy, and he could not provide identifying information about the car other than it was dark blue.

In October 2011 we received a report from the City of Bloomington Police Department (BPD) about vandalism. Someone painted "You are gay" on the steps of a home. The residents, a man and a woman, did not know who wrote it or why. Maintenance removed the graffiti.

In November 2011 we received a report from BPD about a battery. A woman said when she got off the bus, she spat her gum out. A man she knew who was standing nearby thought she had spit the gum at him. She said the man told her not to spit gum at him and told her, "Nigger, you're nasty. I'll have my sister kill your sister and I'll strangle you." She said he punched her in the arm, pushed her at a tree and walked away. The man said the woman spat the gum at him, hitting him in the head. He said he pushed her when the gum hit his head but did not strike her. He denied having made the comments. No one had any visible injuries, and no charges were

filed. BPD did not classify this as a bias incident, but we included it because of the biased language.

In November 2011 we received a report from BPD about harassment. A woman said she needed to go into a grocery store very quickly, and she parked in the fire lane. She said she knew she "probably" should not have done that. When she got out of her car, an older man approached her and said he was going to call the police on her. She said he called her "black bitch" and "nigger." She told him to go ahead and call the police, and she cursed him out in turn. She said she saw the man in the store. She asked him if he had called the police and what his name was, but he didn't answer. She got his license plate number when she left the store. BPD found the man, who said he was a retired firefighter and that he routinely calls in reports when he sees someone has violated fire lane ordinances. He called 911 about this incident. He said when he talked to the woman, she said he was picking on her because she is black. He told her that was not the case. He denied using any offensive terms and said he would not do something like that. He said she was very loud and cursing, and that she had followed him in the store, telling him, "I'm still here and I'm watching you." BPD told both people that they could have handled the situation in a "little bit better way." No charges were filed. BPD did not classify this as a bias incident, but we included it because of the biased language.

In November 2011 we received a report from the Indiana Daily Student (IDS) that someone had taken two Hebrew characters off IU's Chabad House. One character was found lying nearby but the other one was not. The IU Police Department (IUPD) did not characterize this as a hate crime, but the director of Chabad told the IDS he felt the house was being specifically targeted, so we included it.

In November 2011 we received a report from BPD about a battery. An African-American woman said she and her boyfriend were in a convenience store parking lot when a white man came up, called her boyfriend a "nigger" and pushed her up against a truck in the parking lot. She said she hit him in the face to get him off of her. The man said he had gotten into an argument with the couple. He said he tried to walk away, but then he walked back to the woman and the argument continued. He said the woman struck him in both of his eyes with her fists and hit him in the back of his head. He said he pushed her to get her away from him. One witness said she saw the woman strike the man as he was walking away; she did not see the man strike the woman but her view was partially blocked. The boyfriend said the white man threatened his girlfriend and called him "nigger." He said he tried to defuse the situation, but the white man and his girlfriend "got into each other's faces." He said the white man pushed the woman and the woman in turn hit the white man. BPD arrested both the white man and the African-American woman, charging them both with battery.

In February 2012 we received a report from an individual who worked at a place of public accommodation. An African-American man used rude, vulgar and sexist language toward two female patrons, calling them "homeless cunt whores." A white security officer told the African-American man that he had to leave the premises because of his language. The man said the officer was a "white redneck racist motherfucker" as he was escorted off the premises.

In March 2012 we received a report from an individual who worked at a place of public accommodation. Four African-American men were being loud and vulgar at this facility. When a white security officer told the men they needed to quiet down or leave, the men called him a "white fucker racist."

In April 2012 we received a report from the HT that someone had scrawled the word "Hitler" and drawn a swastika on a Jewish Studies poster in Goodbody Hall. IUPD investigated.