BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HATE INCIDENTS REPORT

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

**Warning: this report includes offensive language in order to provide an accurate portrayal of these incidents.

In August, 1990, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously approved an amendment to the Bloomington Human Rights Ordinance which gave the Bloomington Human Rights Commission the explicit authority to collect data and issue reports on hate incidents within our community. We accept 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 authority to conduct that type of investigation. 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 by updating this document on-line as we receive new reports.

Please note: Not all of these incidents constitute crimes, but all do indicate apparent bias.

In January, 2021, we received a report from an individual who said she had received a nomination for a recognition award with offensive answers. The nomination form gave the nominee's name as Aunt Jemima; the email address was a curse word. The answers to the questions on the form were "syrup was it" and "bitches need syrup." The nominator gave his/her name as Adolf Hitler.

In February, 2021, we received a report from an individual who reported his family had been harassed while using a shared lounge space at an apartment complex. A man who said he was a property owner told them, rudely, that the space was under maintenance and that they had to leave. He told them they could not read, apparently based on their accents, and called them "intruders" and "thieves." He accused them of stealing his keys until he found them. He identified himself repeatedly as "Mickey Mouse." A bit later, the family saw the man in the shared lounge space with others, watching the Super Bowl. The incident happened in Monroe County; referred to MCHRC.

In April, 2021, a member of the public reported that a tree on public property had been vandalized. Someone had carved the word "nigger" and the letters "KKK" in the bark of a tree. Parks investigated and removed the carvings.

In April, 2021, the IDS reported that an Asian man had been attacked in February, 2021. He was working as an Uber driver when five people tried to get in his car. He told them that no more than four people could ride in his car and canceled the ride. The man in the front seat refused to leave and repeatedly asked him, "Do you eat bats?" The driver called 911 and told the passenger that the police were on their way. The passenger got out of the car and tried to tackle the driver; the driver avoided the blow, but fell on the concrete, scraping his hands. His glasses fell off when he fell; the passenger smashed them. Police investigated.

In June, 2021, we received a report that "KKK" had been spray painted in two City parks. Parks staff promptly cleaned up the graffiti.

In July, 2021, we received a report from a citizen that offensive graffiti had been painted on the B-Line trail. According to the citizen, someone had painted Nordic runes on the trail that mean "faith in Nazism, Lebensraum and pure blood" and "Ice, torch, hail, torch," which is possibly a way to say "Heil Hitler" using Nordic runes. Parks promptly removed the graffiti.

In October, 2021, the IDS reported that four mezuzahs had been torn off doors on campus since the start of the Jewish new year (September 6, 2021). One student had her mezuzah torn down twice. A mezuzah is a scroll that Jewish people affix to their doors as a symbol of God's presence. IUPD investigated.

In December, 2021, we received reports from individuals and the media about six swastikas having been painted on public and private property on different days. Police investigated and asked for neighbors to share any security videos they might have.