

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HATE INCIDENTS REPORT
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

****Warning: this report includes offensive language 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, training or resources 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 issuing these periodic reports.

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

- In January, 2018, we received a report from an individual. He was serving tables at a restaurant. Customers, apparently from a sorority, entered the restaurant and yelled, "Whatsup my niggas" at the server and at a Middle Eastern male customer sitting nearby. A female customer objected to the comments, but did not persist in objecting after being told, "It's America. I can say whatever I want."
- In January, 2018, we received a second-hand report from an individual. He reported that a friend of his had received the following message on the Grindr dating app: "Are ya too crossed eyed or too chink eyed to see the words? You're hated here man. We hope you see the way out."

- In March, 2018, we received a report from BPD. A man reported that another man had harassed him, called him racial slurs and punched him and another man. Police investigated.
- In April, 2018, we received a report from an individual that a friend of his was pumping gas and speaking a language other than English. A man approached him and said, "Shut up and speak English."
- In May, 2018, we received a report from BPD about an assault and racial slurs. A man reported that another man came up to him when he was in line at a food truck, punched him in the chest, called him a racial slur and told him to go back to where he came from. Police found the alleged assailant, who claimed to be a member of the Aryan Nation. He yelled racial insults at the officers as well. He was charged with battery and disorderly conduct.
- In June, 2018, we received a report of an assault from BPD. A dispute about how a pet was being held led to one person saying, "I'll kill you, nigger" and threatening to come back with a knife. Police investigated.
- In June, 2018, we received a report from BPD about a dispute. When security at a residence would not allow a visitor in after hours, the visitor allegedly said, "Fuck you nigger, I'll fucking kill you." He was charged with intimidation and drug possession.
- In July, 2018, we received a report from BPD about an incident at a fast food restaurant. An intoxicated man was walking through the drive through, harassing customers and pushing over signs. Officers told him to leave; as he walked away, he said he would "kill all those niggers." An officer told him to not make those comments and to walk away. The man continued to make racial slurs to passersby and to the officers. He was arrested and charged with public intoxication.

- In September, 2018, we received a report from an individual that several students, including one Chinese student and one Korean student, were subjected to verbal harassment from people in a passing car. A young white man in the car yelled, "Go back to China, bitch."
- In October, 2018, we received a report from BPD about a dispute. A woman allegedly shoved another woman's child out of her way with a backpack. The child's mother told the first woman not to touch her child. The woman called the mother a "nigger" and hit her in the face several times. The mother said she had "blacked out" because of the injuries; the responding officer saw no physical injuries. The mother hit the woman in return. The woman said she had accidentally bumped the child, then the mother became very angry when she did so; that the mother hit her first and that she pushed the mother back in self-defense. Police investigated.