

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 Bloomington Human Rights Commission the explicit authority to collect data and issue reports on hate incidents in 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 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. (Some of the language in these reports may be offensive. We feel it's 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 La Casa, IU's Latino Cultural 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 a car passed and someone in the car yelled 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 or license plate, other than the car was dark blue.

In October, 2011, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. Someone painted "You are gay" on the steps of a home. The residents, a man and a woman, did not have a clue as to who might have done this 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 nearby whom she knew thought she had spat 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 had spat gum at her, 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. 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 cussed 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 IDS that someone had taken two Hebrew characters off the Chabad's House on campus. One character was found lying nearby but the other one was not. 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 had been at a convenience store parking lot when a white man came up, called her boyfriend a "nigger" and then 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 that 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 accommodations. An African American man used rude, vulgar and sexist language towards 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 accommodations. 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 a swastika on a Jewish Studies poster in Goodbody Hall. IUPD investigated.