

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HATE INCIDENTS REPORT

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

****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 2023, an Asian parent reported that their children were experiencing bullying from peers in a community sports team and that their spouse had been insulted more than once by a coach. They linked this experience to being “in a minority group” among the team.

In January 2023, the Bloomington Police Department responded to a call about an assault on a Bloomington Transit bus. A woman attacked a disabled Chinese Indiana University student with a knife because of the student’s race, telling police that she “needed to defend her flag” and to “make it where there was one less person to blow up our country.” The woman was arrested for aggravated battery.

In February 2023, a parent reported being told “go back to yours” by a child on the playground at school pickup when the parent spoke Japanese with a friend and, when the child asked, explained that they are from Japan.

In March 2023, an individual reported a verbal assault in downtown Bloomington, near the Monroe County Public Library. A man spoke directly to the individual and called them “nasty Chinese.”

In March 2023, an Asian individual reported that their neighbor shouted at and verbally assaulted them, leaving a note reading “BITCH” on the stairs.

In April 2023, an Indian student reported being verbally assaulted near campus by young white men in a vehicle who laughed and mockingly asked “Can you fix my phone for me?” before shouting “Indian!”

In April 2023, the Bloomington Police Department responded to a call from an Indian individual who had been struck in the face while waiting with friends for fast food. A man had entered the restaurant and made comments about the individual being “brown” and “Indian” before striking him.

In August 2023, an Asian individual reported being greeted by a white woman who picked up a stone. The individual believed that, had they not kept an eye on her, the woman would have thrown the stone at them.

In August 2023, a trans individual was performing her school crossing guard duties when a man said he was Lucifer and called her a pedophile. He then pushed her down, picked up her sign and hit her on the buttocks. Police came, found the individual who attacked her, and charged him with assault.

In December 2023, the Bloomington Police Department responded to a call from two Indian men who had attended a student house party in Bloomington the day before. The men reported a racially motivated attack by a group of unidentified young Black and White men who yelled Indian slurs, told them to “get out of the country,” stole valuable possessions, and caused significant injury.