*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 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 by issuing these annual reports.

Please note that we include reports indicating bias in our community. Not all of these incidents constitute crimes.

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. One of the female customers 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 of an assault 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 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 after hours, the visitor allegedly said, “Fuck you nigger, I’ll fucking kill you.” He was charged with intimidation and drug possession.