

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HATE INCIDENTS REPORT
July, 2012 – June, 2013

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 July, 2012, we received a report from BPD about a battery and attempted robbery. Two men and a woman reported that they had been home watching a movie on television when two men came into the apartment and yelled, "Give me your money, faggot." The men hit one of the male residents in the head, causing him to bleed. Then the two invaders fled the apartment. The male resident told police he did not know who the two men were. He reported that three weeks earlier, he had come home to find the words "Fuck you fag" written at the top of his door. BPD investigated.

In August, 2012, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. A man reported that someone had keyed the words "I rape kids" and "fag," as well as the letter "X" on his car. BPD investigated.

In August, 2012, we received a report from BPD about a battery. Several juvenile females got into a fight. One girl called another girl "a bitch and a nigger." One girl had a scratch on her cheek but did not want to press charges. BPD told all of the girls to stay away from each other.

In September, 2012, we received a report from BPD about a battery. A white woman reported that she had told a visitor at her apartment that she was engaged to a white man, who was in her apartment, and that she was also having a relationship with a black man. The white male visitor became very irate at the news. He said he was a white supremacist and said several racial slurs. He also yelled at her about being unfaithful to her

fiancé. She shouted in his face about his intolerance and he shoved her and spat on her. He told her that white supremacists were coming to town and they would harm her and her African American friend. BPD sought an arrest warrant for the white male visitor and explained protection and no contact orders to the victim.

In September, 2012, we received a report from BPD about a battery involving juveniles at a school. One student called another "gay" and said he was going to beat the student up. The student who was called gay said he would not fight back. The first student hit him several times until the second student did fight back, at which point the first student slammed the second student's head against the wall. The first student was arrested.

In September, 2012, we received a report from BPD about a battery. A child with autism called older neighborhood kids "white trash" and "black trash." One of the older kids responded by hitting the child with autism with a belt, causing a welt. He said he didn't mean to hit the younger kid. Rather, he was just swinging his belt, trying to scare him. BPD investigated.

In October, 2012, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. A woman reported that someone had keyed the word "fag" on the trunk of her car. BPD investigated.

In October, 2012, we received a report from BPD about a battery. A woman reported she had an argument with a white male friend after he called her boyfriend a "nigger." When he said that, she yelled at him, and he hit her in the mouth. She tried to hit him back, but he ducked and locked himself in his bedroom. The man claimed she had hit him as well, but he did not recall on which side of his face he had been hit and had no injury. Both of the participants had been drinking. Neither wanted to press charges against the other.

In November, 2012, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. A man reported someone had painted "I gay" on the side of his house. BPD investigated.

In November, 2012, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. Someone spray painted the words "gay" on the side of a woman's house. BPD investigated, noting the similarity between this and the previous incident.

In April, 2013, we received a report from BPD about harassment. A restaurant employee said that a semi-regular customer had been in the restaurant earlier and had used foul language. Previously, the customer

had called an employee a "fag." On this date, the customer was using foul language in general and had become upset. The employee asked the customer to leave, which led to the customer yelling, telling the employee to "go fuck" himself and threatening to "shoot the place up." The employee said that on previous visits, the customer had made racist comments to customers and other homophobic comments to employees. By the time the police arrived, the customer had left and the police could not find him. BPD told the employee to let the police know if the customer returns, so that BPD may advise the customer about trespass and felony intimidation.

In May, 2013, we received a report from BPD about a battery. An African American woman was trying to help a white male friend who had been in a fight. She was cleaning his wounds when his girlfriend came. The girlfriend told her to stop cleaning his wounds because she wanted to walk the man home. The African American woman said she wanted to finish what she was doing. The white woman said, depending on which witness you believe, "Let's not get ghetto here," "ghetto nigger," "ghetto nigger bitch" or "dirty nigger." She also, by one account, spat in the African American woman's face. The African American woman chased the white woman out of the apartment and repeatedly hit and kicked her, in view of a police officer. The police arrested the African American woman.

In May, 2013, we received a report from BPD about a possibly pre-arranged fight between some juveniles, apparently provoked by one boy calling another a "nigger" and being called a "pussy" in return. BPD investigated.

In May, 2013, we received a report from BPD about an incident. A man said that he met someone who gave him a ride home. They were talking outside of his home when they were approached by another man. Both the man who approached them and the visitor then hit him and stole some pills and cash from him. He reported the incident to the police. When he later followed up by sending a text message to the man who had given him a ride home, that man replied, "IDK (I don't know) what zip XQ means, but if you try to get at the police nigga they won't like that. You were trying to sell me ur (your) pills U (you)stupid nigger." The victim admitted to the police at that time that he had sold some pills to the man who gave him a ride home and that they stole back some of the cash he had received for the pills. BPD investigated.

In June, 2013, we received a report from BPD about a battery. Witnesses reported that two African American men kept hitting on some women in

a bar. A male friend of the women told the African American men to leave the women alone, and one of the African American men hit the male friend, knocking out two teeth. The police arrested the African American man after a chase by vehicle and foot. The African American man initially claimed his friend had thrown the punch, but later admitted it was him. He said the male friend had called him "nigger." He said he ran from the police because he was on probation.