

**BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**HATE INCIDENTS REPORT**  
**July, 2013 – June, 2014**

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, 2013, we received a report from BPD about harassment. An African American man said he was standing in an alley when a white man in a pick-up began backing up toward him. Friends of the African American man yelled at the driver because they did not think the driver saw the African American man. The driver said, "You niggers need to watch out when I'm trying to back out." The African American man and his friends, also African American, yelled at the driver until they were asked to leave by a staff person nearby. BPD told the African American *men* that no crime had been committed. Nevertheless, they tried to investigate, without success.

In August, 2013, we received a report from BPD about a battery. An Asian man said he had been to parties in his apartment complex with some of his friends. He saw that these friends were at a party next door, introduced himself and talked to some of the young women present. A group of males, black and white, called him "Jackie Chan" and made jokes about his national origin. He protested their comments. They became angry and threw him out of the apartment. Then they followed him to his apartment, and assaulted him. When BPD interviewed him, his left eye was red and swollen and his lip was bloody. BPD was unable to locate the alleged attackers.

In January, 2014, we received a report from BPD about battery at a school. A fight between students was apparently motivated by one

student repeatedly calling another student "nigger" on Facebook. BPD investigated.

In April, 2014, we received a report from BPD about intimidation. A white woman said that as she was checking out at a grocery store, an African American man had made rude comments to her and reached across the counter in a rude fashion. She said words were exchanged between him and her outside. She said that the man drove recklessly close to her daughter and tried to swing at her through the car window. Other witnesses said the woman and her daughter called the African American man "nigger" while they were in the store. When the woman heard what witnesses had said, she said she didn't want to pursue a complaint and told her daughter not to sign a statement. The African American man said the woman and her daughter made snide comments to him and ordered him to move while they were in the store. He said the woman's husband called him "nigger" and told him, "Go back to your car, nigger." He said he was upset but didn't say anything. As he left, the daughter said, "Go ahead, try to hit me." Neither party wanted to press charges.

In May, 2014, we received a report from BPD about a battery. Two men engaged in a fight outside of a bar. One man said the other man called him a "kike" and instigated the fight. One of the men was charged with disorderly conduct and illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor. The other man was charged with disorderly conduct.