

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HATE INCIDENTS REPORT
July, 2014 – June, 2015

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. We feel it's necessary to include the actual language used in order to convey the true ugliness of these incidents.

In July, 2014, we received a report from BPD about criminal mischief and vandalism. A woman reported that she had been parked with her fiancée as they prepared to get married. A man in an adjacent car made comments about two women marrying and about their sexuality. When the two women returned to their car, they found a scratch along the whole side of the vehicle on the passenger side. The scratch had not been there before. She did not know if the man who made the comments had also scratched her vehicle. BPD investigated.

In July, 2014, we received a report from BPD about a battery/assault. A man reported that he had been walking on a trail by himself, skipping and singing. Two men walked up behind him and kicked him in the legs. When he tried to get up, one of the men knocked him down again. One of the men spat in his face. The men left. One of them said to him as they were leaving, "Go get fucked by a horse you disgusting piece of shit faggot." BPD noted that the incident occurred outside of the City limits and referred the matter to the sheriff's department.

In September, 2014, we received a report from BPD about a battery/assault. A white man reported that he had been attacked by an African American man in a restaurant parking lot. The investigation revealed that the white man had been drinking. Inside the restaurant, he had gone up uninvited to two African American men, put his arms around them, and said, "When did it get so dark in here?" He also made other racial and derogatory comments. One of the African American men told him to leave, but he stayed at the table and continued to make comments. Restaurant management told him to leave. He went to the parking lot, where one of African American men hit him several

times. Other patrons tried to stop the fight, but another African American kicked him while he was down. The white man said he did not want to press charges because he had made inappropriate comments and "deserves what I got."

In October, 2014, we received a report from BPD about an assault. A white man reported that he had confronted a white man he knew who had called him a "nigger lover" because he was seeing an African American woman. A fight followed, and he was hit in the head. He had multiple broken bones around his eye socket and jaw, and he had to have reconstructive facial surgery. BPD talked to the attacker, who said the victim had been confrontational and head-butted him and threatened to kill him before he (the attacker) hit him (the victim) in the face. The attacker's version said nothing about using the term "nigger-lover" but said the fight was over a woman they had in common, and that the victim brought this up every time he got drunk. The attacker was arrested and charged.

In December, 2014, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. A woman reported that she had argued with a relative about her African American boyfriend, and she later saw that someone had keyed the word "nigga" on the passenger side of her car. BPD talked to the relative, who denied having caused the damage; a witness supported his statement.

In February, 2015, we received a report from BPD about an assault. A white man reported that his nose had been broken during a fight in a bar. The person who broke his nose is an African American man, who said that the victim had been calling him "nigger" all night long. The victim threatened the African American's life. In the parking lot, the victim confronted the African American man, still calling him "nigger" and threatening his life. The African American man hit him one time and left. The white man denied making any of these comments to the African American man. BPD investigated.

In April, 2015, we received a report from BPD about harassment. An African American man said he has a female roommate who has a boyfriend. He said that he had come home to find all of his personal items removed from the apartment. His roommate and her boyfriend denied any knowledge of what had happened to his belongings, so he called the police. They then tried to say they had been joking and they returned all of his things. The next day, they drove past him and yelled "nigger" at him and threatened him for having called the police. BPD was unable to find any earlier report that he had made about his missing belongings. BPD investigated.

In June, 2015, we received a report from BPD about a weapons offense. A woman reported that a neighbor had called her "nigger" and had pointed a shot gun at her. The neighbor said she had confronted him about his music in a

very aggressive manner. He said he had called her a "nigger," but only after she called him "white trash." He said he had picked up his gun by the door and carried it away, but did not point it at the woman. BPD told both of them to call BPD if they have issues with each other.