

**BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**HATE INCIDENTS REPORT**  
**July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017**

**\*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.

In August, 2016, we received a report from BPD about intimidation and threats. An employee, an African American woman, tried to stop an altercation between two men. One of the men, a white man, came at the African American woman as if he were going to fight her. He said he was going to "fucking skin you and your nigger kid." Other people reported similar comments. One reported that the man had called him names and grabbed him by the shirt, but he didn't want to press charges. BPD arrested the white man for threats and intimidation.

In October, 2016, BPD reported an act of vandalism. A woman reported that someone had keyed her son's car, writing the word "fag" on it and leaving mustard and bologna all over the car. BPD investigated.

In November, 2016, someone spray painted swastikas and the letters "KKK" on the B-line trail and on light poles. BPD investigated.

In November, 2016, a white woman reported that she had been on the sidewalk with a white man when two bicyclists, one African American and one possibly Latino, passed by. One of them yelled, "Go back to England, you racists."

In November, 2016, vandalism was found at the Monroe County Democratic Headquarters. Someone painted "MAGA" (make American great again) on a window. They wrote on a door, "#YHUGE," "Safe Spaces Aren't Real" and "Hillary 4 Prison." And they wrote the letter "K" over the "H" on a sign for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

In December, 2016, the BHRC received a report that a swastika with a slash through it had been painted on a building near downtown.

In February, 2017, the BHRC received a report that numerous flyers and posters from a white nationalist group had been posted on the IU campus. Recipients reported the posters to IUPD and to the FBI.

In March, 2017, we received a report from BPD about an attack in the restroom of a bar. A man reported that he had gone to the restroom alone when a white male punched him on the side of his face. He slipped and fell, hitting his face on the stall door. Someone called him a "sand nigger." BPD investigated.

In March, 2017, we observed graffiti on the wall of a social service agency claiming that the agency hates gays.

In April, 2017, we received a report from BPD about harassment. A white tenant called his African American tenant a "nigger" and said that she and her family were all "worthless low lives." The white man admitted to BPD that he had made the comments, but said his black friend did not object to such comments. BPD asked him to be amicable with his neighbors and to not use racial slurs toward people who might be offended.

In May, 2017, we received a report from BPD about vandalism. A homeowner reported that someone had spray-painted swastikas and a phallic symbol on the back of his house.

In June, 2017, BPD reported a battery. An African American man said that a white man yelled at him, called him "nigger" and spat in his face. He responded by striking the white man. BPD investigated.

In June, 2017, BPD reported vandalism. Two men in car said a man in a passing car said "There's two homos in a BMV, what are you, a pair of faggots?" The driver threw a glass bottle at the car, damaging the hood, and then a plastic water bottle at the car. The driver who threw the bottles was charged with criminal mischief.

In October, 2017, the City received reports of several incidents of racially offensive vandalism, including the letters "KKK" and images of swastikas. The graffiti was found at the East Tenth Street underpass, the Unitarian Universalist church, the intersection of College Mall Road and Sare Road and the railway underpass at College and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Public Works staff painted over the graffiti.