



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2007

TO: Michael T. Cash
Executive Director, Human Rights Commission

FROM: David M. Rohrer, Colonel
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Department Bias Crime Annual Report

REF: Calendar Year 2006

There were 76 bias events reported in Fairfax County in CY 2006. Of these, 28 (37%) were classified as bias incidents and 48 (63%) as bias crimes. This is a 38% decrease when compared to the 123 events reported in CY 2005 when 52 (42%) were bias incidents and 71 (58%) were bias crimes. Bias crimes decreased 32% in 2006.

In CY 2006, 34 (71%) of the bias crimes were crimes against property such as graffiti and destruction of property. There were 14 (29%) crimes against persons. These percentages are comparable to CY 2005 where 50 (70%) were crimes against property, and 21 (30%) were bias crimes against persons. Bias crimes against property decreased 32% and bias crimes against persons decreased 35% in 2006.

The bias crimes against persons reported in 2006 are classified as follows:

- Disorderly Conduct (7)
- Phone Threats (3)
- Burglary (1)
- Arson (1)
- Assault (1)
- Unlawful Entry (1)

There were no significant bias incidents that received public attention in CY 2006. However, this did not prevent the Fairfax County Police Department from investigating all reported bias incidents thoroughly. The Fairfax County Police Department closed seven of this year's bias crimes by arrest. In three other bias crimes this year the suspects were identified, and the victims chose not to prosecute. This constituted a 21% closure rate for bias crimes in CY 2006.

Fairfax County Police Department
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In CY 2006, there was a decrease in bias related incidents of 38% from CY 2005. Historically, the overall rate of bias incidents that occur in Fairfax County is low. However, due to the small number of reported incidents, it is difficult to distinguish trends or patterns of bias crimes within Fairfax County. Given this fact, it was still apparent that the majority of the reported hate related incidents committed in Fairfax County were destruction of property and graffiti cases that are committed by juveniles. This is a trend that has been evident since our Department has documented hate-related incidents.

The Fairfax County Police Department is aware that bias crimes are being underreported in certain segments of our community. However, our Department continues to actively reach out to all communities in an effort to ensure all individuals receive the same level of service regardless of their race, religious conviction, ethnic/national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact our Bias Crimes Investigations Coordinator, Second Lieutenant David R. Smith, at 703-246-2289.

DMR/drs