



Fairfax County Bias Crimes and Incidents

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr.
Chief of Police

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FBI National Reporting Requirements

The Fairfax County Police Department uses NIBRS based reporting. The Department follows the reporting requirements outlined by the FBI.

FBI Guidelines:

- **Bias Crime**—A committed criminal offense that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias(es) against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity; also known as Hate Crime.

Source: [FBI Data Collection Guidelines](#)

Fairfax County Police Department

Bias Crime Policy General Order 520.7

Bias Crime Definition:

Also known as Hate Crime. Any unlawful action committed against a person because of race, religious conviction, ethnic/national origin, disability, and/or sexual orientation. The *Code of Virginia* does not specifically define a bias crime or hate crime as a violation of law, but does provide enhanced penalties for assault and battery (§ 18.2-57) and vandalism (as defined by § 18.2-121) when the acts are committed against a person based upon their race, religious conviction, color or national origin.

Fairfax County Police Department Bias Crime Policy General Order 520.7

Bias Incident Definition:

Involves behaviors that, though motivated by bias against a victim's race, religious conviction, ethnic/national origin, disability, and/or sexual orientation, are not criminal acts (i.e., distribution of unsolicited hate literature, hostile or hateful speech, or other disrespectful/discriminatory behavior may be motivated by bias but is not a violation of criminal law) but may be classified as a violation of civil statutes. They become criminal acts only when the behavior directly incites perpetrators to commit acts of violence against persons or the destruction of property.

FBI National Statistics and Fairfax County Statistics

FBI Statistics:

National Incidents and Offenses 2016:

- 15,254 agencies nation wide participated;
of those 1,776 agencies reported:
 - 6,121 bias incidents
 - 7,321 bias offenses
 - 13,442 Total

National Incidents and Offenses 2017:

- 16,149 agencies nation wide participated;
of those 2,040 agencies reported:
 - 7,175 bias incidents
 - 8,437 bias offenses
 - 15,609 Total

Fairfax County Statistics:

Bias Type	2015	2016	2017	2018 YTD
Anti-Black	15	18	27	29
Anti-Jewish	4	4	12	4
Anti-Muslim	7	7	8	2
Anti-Multi / Anti-Other	4	11	9	12
Anti-Sexual Orientation	2	6	7	5
All Other Groups	14	12	24	25
Total	46	58	87	77

Fairfax County Bias Crimes and Incidents By Year and Type

Bias Crimes	2015	2016	2017	2018 YTD*
Assault	7	7	8	17
Burglary	0	0	1	0
Computer Harassment	5	0	0	0
Destruction of Property (EX: graffiti)	9	14	24	11
Larceny	0	0	1	0
Robbery	1	1	0	0
Vehicle Tampering	0	1	0	0
Threats (against person[s])	0	4	4	0
Total	22	27	38	28

Bias Incidents	2015	2016	2017	2018 YTD*
Disorderly Conduct	5	8	9	17
Drunk In Public	0	0	1	0
Other Offense/Null	7	5	13	12
Police Service (no crime)	2	6	5	7
Suspicious Event/Person (no crime)	10	12	21	13
Total	24	31	49	49

Combating Hate and Bias Through: Community Education / Outreach / Intervention

- Foster partnerships and establish liaisons with organizations and leaders within target communities
- Educate the community on bias crimes and incidents
- Attempt to heal the harm inflicted
- Enlist community support to send a clear message that hate and bias will not be tolerated
- Meet with target communities to allay fears, reduce any potential counter-violence, and provide safety and crime prevention information
- Conduct aggressive proactive follow-up procedures to ensure the needs of the community are being met to reduce fear and prevent recurrence of similar events
- Provide appropriate services and resources to the victims and witnesses of bias crimes and incidents

Fairfax County Police Department Faith Community Engagement

- Security Check
- Active Violence Presentations
- Security Briefings/Assessments
- Tabletop exercises
- Worship Watch Workshops
- Personal Safety Presentations
- Victim Resources
- Interfaith Collaboration



Fairfax County Police Department Community Engagement and Prevention Measures

- Crime Prevention Program
- Communities of Trust Council
- Citizen Advisory Committee
- Chief's Diversity Council
- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council
- National Night Out
- Social Media Platforms
- One Fairfax
- International Associations of Chiefs of Police (IACP)