



## Hate Crimes

### .01 Policy

The Bladensburg Police Department will respond to and aggressively investigate incidents that are motivated by race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

### .02 Terms

Hate Crime: A criminal act motivated or perceived to be motivated by race, religion, ethnic background, or sexual orientation.

### .03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

Maryland Criminal Law Article, §10-301.

Forms:

Case Report (Automated).

Reference:

General Order 400, Criminal Investigations.

### .04 Procedure

#### A. Hate Crimes

Upon arriving at and verifying a hate incident (exclusive of cross burnings) the officer shall:

- Request that a supervisor respond;
- Conduct a preliminary investigation; and,
- Complete a Case Report, indicating "Hate Incident" as the incident type.

#### Supervisor's Responsibility

The shift supervisor shall respond to the scene immediately and:

- Notify the Chief of Police and Operations Commander; and,
- Initiate an area check.

#### Operations Commander's Responsibility

The Operations Commander shall respond to the scene and:

- Personally contact the victims;
- Contact the Investigative Section; and,
- Within one hour, contact the Office of the State's Attorney and provide pertinent

details of the incident to include the case number.

Within 24 hours of the incident, the operations commander shall submit a case summary to the Chief of Police, including:

- Date, time, and manner of notification to the Office of the State's Attorney; and,
- Case status.

#### Investigative Section's Responsibility

Hate incidents are the responsibility of the Investigative Section. They are documented in a Report of Investigation, which shall be completed within 30 days of the incident.

The Investigative Section, shall submit copies of all investigative reports to the Chief of Police and Operations Commander. The Operations Commander shall ensure that an area check is continued for 60 days. They shall submit a status report every 30 days to the Chief of Police and Operations Commander.

#### B. Cross Burning

The Police and Fire Department investigators will conduct concurrent investigations of cross burnings.

The Office of the Chief of Police shall be responsible for the press releases.

Upon responding to the scene and verifying a cross burning, officers shall request that the following respond to the scene:

- Shift Supervisor;
- Criminal Investigator; and,
- Fire Department investigator.

Officers shall also:

- Preserve evidence;
- Identify witnesses;
- Brief the supervisor and investigators;
- Complete a Case Report, indicating "Cross Burning" as the incident type.

## Hate Crimes

### Supervisor's Responsibility

The shift supervisor shall respond to the scene immediately and:

- Inform the victim(s) that the police and fire departments will investigate the incident concurrently;
- Notify the Chief of Police and Operations Commander; and,
- Initiate an area check.

### Operations Commander's Responsibility

The Operations Commander shall respond to the scene and:

- Personally contact the victims;
- Contact the Investigative Section;
- Forward a copy of the Case Report to the Fire Department Investigator;
- Within one hour, contact the Office of the State's Attorney and provide pertinent details of the incident to include the case number; and,
- Ensure an area check is continued for 60 days.

Within 24 hours of the incident, the Operations Commander shall submit a case summary to the Chief of Police, including:

- Date, time, and manner of notification to the Office of the State's Attorney; and,
- Case status.

### Investigative Section's Responsibility

An investigator shall respond to the scene and conduct a criminal investigation in accordance with the General Order Manual.

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HISTORY: Adopted December 1, 2013

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:



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Chief of Police