

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Jerry Hoover /s/		
Legal Advisor: Karen Fraley /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief:		
General Order No: P-220-04	Issued: June 10, 2004	Supersedes: 3/253.000
General Order Title: HATE CRIME INCIDENTS		

POLICY

In conjunction with this Department's commitment to the fair and equal treatment of all people as outlined in Reno Police Department General Order E-270-03 *Discrimination / Sexual Harassment*, the Department recognizes that hate crimes perpetrated against certain people, groups, and organizations are serious and emotional incidents with potentially devastating impact on hate-crime victims and the community.

It is the policy of the Reno Police Department to report all acts and incidents related to hate crimes and to thoroughly and completely investigate any hate-crime violence or activity. The Department is committed to applying its resources to protect the rights of all citizens, tourists, and visitors, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, or sexual orientation.

DEFINITION

Hate violence

Hate violence is a generic term used to describe incidents of violence perpetrated against victims exclusively because of their individual race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The motivation for hate-related crimes or attacks is *hatred* for those who are different in some way from the perpetrator.

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING HATE CRIME INCIDENTS

- Motivation of the perpetrator;
- Absence of any other identifiable motive;
- Perceptions of the victim(s);
- Display of offensive symbols, words, or acts;
- The date and time of the incident that may correspond to a significant cultural or ethnic holiday or observance, *i.e.*, Hanukkah, Martin Luther King Day, etc.;
- A review of the specific circumstances surrounding the incident that may indicate that the

perpetrators are involved in known hate groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Anarchists, etc.; and

- Statements made by the suspect(s).

REPORTING HATE CRIME INCIDENTS

Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990

In 1990, the United States Congress enacted the Hate Crimes Act for the purpose of acquiring and publishing data specifically related to crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on certain group characteristics. The Attorney General of the United States is required to obtain information and data about crimes that pertain to prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity for the crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson, and destruction, damage, or vandalism to property.

Hate Crime Incident Report

Once it has been determined that a hate violence incident has occurred, a crime or incident report will be completed as it would be for any other crime or incident. Personnel should be particularly sensitive to the need to complete police reports on any incident, act, or other occurrence that has the potential to be considered a hate-based act.

Personnel will designate the crime or incident report as a hate crime by checking the *Hate Crime Incident Report* tab in the Incident Folder of the Tiburon report field.

After designating the crime as a hate crime, personnel will be required to complete the Hate Crime Incident Report Form. Proper and thorough completion of this report is required by the United States Government as defined in the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990.

Completed reports will be reviewed by a supervisor who will confirm or negate the apparent motivation behind the incident as being a hate-related occurrence.

Approved reports are submitted to the Records Section pursuant to existing reporting policy and practice. The Director of the Records Section will ensure the proper collection, retention, and distribution of all Hate Crime reports for reporting as further defined in the Hate Crime Statistics Act. A copy of the supervisor-approved report will be submitted to the Patrol Deputy Chief and the Detective Division Deputy Chief. The Detective Division Deputy Chief will review each report and ensure proper and complete investigation of each incident.