

## Hate Crimes

### 319.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to meet or exceed the provisions of Penal Code § 13519.6(c) and provides members of this department with guidelines for identifying and investigating incidents and crimes that may be motivated by hatred or other bias.

#### 319.1.1 DEFINITIONS

**Hate crimes** - A criminal act committed in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim (Penal Code § 422.55; Penal Code § 422.56; Penal Code § 422.57):

- (a) Disability
- (b) Gender
- (c) Nationality
- (d) Race or ethnicity
- (e) Religion
- (f) Sexual orientation
- (g) Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics
- (h) Examples of hate crimes include, but are not limited to:
  1. Interfering with, oppressing or threatening any other person in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured by the constitution or laws because of one or more of the actual or perceived characteristics of the victim (Penal Code § 422.6).
  2. Defacing a person's property because of one or more of the actual or perceived characteristics of the victim (Penal Code § 422.6(b)).
  3. Terrorizing a person with a swastika or burning cross (Penal Code § 11411).
  4. Vandalizing a place of worship (Penal Code § 594.3).

The federal Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act expands federal hate crimes to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability (18 USC § 249).

**Victim** - Includes, but is not limited to, a community center, educational facility, entity, family, group, individual, office, meeting hall, person, place of worship, private institution, public agency, library or other victim or intended victim of the offense (Penal Code § 422.56).

### 319.2 POLICY

The Irvine Police Department recognizes and places a high priority on the rights of all individuals guaranteed under the state and federal constitution and incorporated in state and federal law.

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### **319.3 CRIMINAL STATUTES**

Penal Code § 422 - Prohibits verbal, written or electronically transmitted threats to commit great bodily injury or death to another or his/her immediate family.

Penal Code § 422.6(a) - Prohibits the use of force or threats of force to willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, oppress, or threaten any person in the free exercise or enjoyment of rights and privileges secured by the Constitution or law because of the person's real or perceived characteristics listed in Penal Code § 422.55(a). Speech alone does not constitute a violation of this section except when the speech itself threatened violence and the defendant had the apparent ability to carry out the threat.

Penal Code § 422.6(b) - Prohibits knowingly defacing, damaging or destroying the real or personal property of any person for any of the purposes set forth in Penal Code § 422.6(a).

Penal Code § 422.7 - Provides for other criminal offenses involving threats, violence or property damage in excess of \$400 to become felonies if committed for any of the purposes set forth in Penal Code 422.6.

Penal Code § 422.56 - Defines gender for purposes of various hate crime statutes to mean the victim's actual sex or a person's gender identity and gender related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

Penal Code § 422.77 - Provides for the criminal enforcement of any order issued pursuant to Civil Code § 52.1.

Penal Code § 11411 - Prohibits terrorizing by placing or displaying any unauthorized sign, mark, symbol, emblem or other physical impression (including Nazi swastika, noose, or burning cross).

Penal Code § 11412 - Prohibits terrorizing threats of injury or property damage to interfere with the exercise of religious beliefs.

Penal Code § 594.3 - Prohibits vandalism to religious buildings or places of worship.

Penal Code § 11413 - Prohibits use of explosives or other destructive devices for terrorizing another at health facilities, places of religion, group facilities and other specified locations.

### **319.4 CIVIL STATUTES**

Civil Code § 51.7 - Except for statements made during otherwise lawful labor picketing, all persons in this state have the right to be free from any violence or intimidation by threat of violence against their person or property because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or position in a labor dispute.

Civil Code § 52 - Provides for civil suit by individual, Attorney General, District Attorney or City Attorney for violation of Civil Code § 51.7, including damages, Temporary Restraining Order and injunctive relief.

Civil Code § 52.1 - Provides for Temporary Restraining Order and injunctions for violations of individual and Constitutional rights enforceable as criminal conduct under Penal Code § 422.9.

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### **319.5 PREVENTION AND PREPARATION**

While it is recognized that not all crime can be prevented, this department is committed to taking a proactive approach to preventing and preparing for likely hate crimes by, among other things:

- (a) Make an affirmative effort to establish contact with persons and groups within the community who are likely targets of hate crimes and forming networks that address prevention and response.
- (b) Accessing assistance by, among other things, activating the California Department of Justice Hate Crime Rapid Response Protocol when necessary.
- (c) Providing victim assistance and community follow-up as outlined below.
- (d) Educating community and civic groups about hate crime laws.
- (e) Establishing a community relations liaison to work with community organizations and leaders to coordinate public meetings, local group meetings and school assemblies on recognizing, preparing for and preventing hate crimes.

### **319.6 INVESTIGATIONS**

Whenever any member of this department receives a report of a suspected hate crime or other activity that reasonably appears to involve a potential hate crime, the following should occur:

- (a) Assigned officers should promptly contact the victim, witness or reporting party to investigate the matter further as circumstances may dictate
- (b) A supervisor should be notified of the circumstances as soon as practical.
- (c) Once in-progress aspects of any such situation have been stabilized (e.g., treatment of victims, apprehension of suspects at the scene), the assigned officers should take all reasonable steps to preserve evidence that establishes a possible hate crime.
- (d) Based upon available information, officers should take appropriate action to mitigate further injury or damage to potential victims or the community.
  - 1. Officers should contact the property owner to remove any evidence that cannot be physically removed (i.e., painted words or signs on a wall) by the officer once the offense is documented.
- (e) The assigned officers should interview available witnesses, victims and others to determine what circumstances, if any, indicate that the situation may involve a hate crime.
  - 1. No victim of or a witness to a hate crime who is not otherwise charged with or convicted of a crime under state law may be detained for or turned over to federal authorities exclusively for any actual or suspected immigration violation (Penal Code § 422.93(b))
  - 2. Statements of victims and witnesses should be audio or video recorded if practicable (see the Portable Audio/Video Recorders Policy).
- (f) Depending on the situation, the assigned officers or supervisor may request additional assistance from detectives or other resources.

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- (g) The assigned officers should include all available evidence indicating the likelihood of a hate crime in the relevant reports. All related reports should be clearly marked as “Hate Crimes” and, absent prior approval of a supervisor, should be completed and submitted by the assigned officers before the end of the shift.
- (h) The assigned officers will provide the victims of any suspected hate crime with a brochure on hate crimes (Penal Code § 422.92). Such brochures will also be available to members of the general public upon request. The assigned officers should also make reasonable efforts to assist the victims by providing available information on local assistance programs and organizations.
- (i) The assigned officers and supervisor should take reasonable steps to ensure that any such situation does not escalate further and should provide information to the victim regarding legal aid (e.g., Possible Temporary Restraining Order through the District Attorney or City Attorney Penal Code § 136.2 or Civil Code § 52.1 as indicated).

### 319.6.1 INVESTIGATIVE BUREAU RESPONSIBILITY

If a hate crime case is assigned to the Investigative Bureau, the assigned detective will be responsible for:

- (a) Coordinating further investigation with the District Attorney and other appropriate law enforcement agencies.
- (b) Maintaining contact with the victims and other involved individuals, as needed.
- (c) Maintaining statistical data and tracking on suspected hate crimes as indicated for required reporting to the Attorney General (Penal Code § 13023). See the Records Bureau Policy.
- (d) Make reasonable efforts to identify additional witnesses.
- (e) Utilize available criminal intelligence systems as appropriate (see Criminal Organizations Policy).
- (f) Provide the supervisor and the Press Information Officer (PIO) with information that can be responsibly reported to the media.
  - 1. When appropriate, the PIO should reiterate that the hate crime will not be tolerated and will be taken seriously.

### 319.6.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

The supervisor should confer with the initial responding officers to identify reasonable and appropriate preliminary actions. The supervisor should:

- (a) Review related reports to verify whether the incident is appropriately classified as a hate crime for federal and state bias crime-reporting purposes.
- (b) Notify other appropriate personnel in the chain of command, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense and its potential inflammatory and related impact on the community.

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- (c) Consider the need for further action to be taken for the protection of the victims or vulnerable sites, such as assigning an officer at specific locations that could become targets or increase neighborhood surveillance.
- (d) Ensure that members who are responsible for the conduct and maintenance of information on criminal groups are notified and that they make appropriate inquiries and entries into criminal intelligence systems (see Criminal Organizations Policy).

#### **319.7 TRAINING**

All members of this department will receive POST-approved training on hate crime recognition and investigation as provided by Penal Code § 13519.6. Training should also include recognition of bias motivators such as ranges of attitudes and perceptions toward a specific characteristic or group.