



HATE CRIMES
PALM SPRINGS IS A
HATE FREE COMMUNITY



WHAT TO DO IF A HATE CRIME HAPPENS TO YOU

- **Protect Yourself • Know the Law •**
- **Report the Crime •**

Hate Crime Definition

Any unlawful action designed to frighten, harm, injure, intimidate, or harass an individual, in whole or in part, because of a bias motivation against the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnic / national origin, sexual orientation, gender (including sexual identity /transgender), or disability of the victim.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

1. **Protect yourself.** Defuse the situation if at all possible. Do not respond to taunts or threats.
2. **Call 911 immediately.** Consult this card and state that you are reporting a hate crime.
3. **Note the physical descriptions of the suspects** in as much detail as possible.
4. **Write down everything you can remember** about the incident, including the time and location.
5. **File a police report** (see other slide).
6. **Get involved.** Be a witness if someone else is a victim.
7. **If you know the suspects, ask about obtaining** a restraining order.

REPORTING A HATE CRIME

How to File a Police Report

Emergency: Dial 911

Non-Emergency: Call (760) 327-1441

1. **Stress that the crime involved hateful words and/or gestures.** If you are gay, you do not have to reveal your sexual orientation when reporting the crime. The suspect's perception, whether true or not, is what matters.
2. **Describe in detail what you heard and saw that made you fearful.** Example: "They approached in a menacing manner, called me a (any bigoted slur term) and threatened to kill me." Or, "They drove by, called out a slur, and threw a beer bottle at us."
3. **Report any incident including property damage or vandalism where hate seems to be a motivation.** Even when an incident might not rise to the level of a crime, the incident report will help the police track and identify suspects and prevent future escalations.
4. **For future reference and follow up, save the report number from the responding officer.**

The Palm Springs Police Department gives a high priority to hate crimes and incidents. Particular attention is given to addressing the safety and concern of victims, their families and others affected by the crime.