



## IACP LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY CENTER

# *Need to Know.....*

## Investigation of Hate Crimes

---

*Hate crimes are viewed in the community not only as a crime against the targeted victim(s), but also as a crime against the victim's identification group as a whole. Therefore, a focused and consistent response to these crimes is crucial, not only to the victims, but also for maintaining legitimacy within the community.*

- **Hate crimes** are those in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property that is the object of the crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation of any person.
- **Communicate** with concerned community-based organizations, civic groups, and religious institutions regarding the suspected or confirmed hate crime.
- To ensure that the investigation is as comprehensive as possible, **coordinate** with other units of this agency, as well as other local, state, and regional intelligence operations in order to identify any patterns, organized hate groups, and suspects potentially involved in the offense.
- Work with segments of the larger community after such crimes to help **reduce fears**, stem possible retaliation, prevent additional hate crimes, and encourage any other previously victimized individuals to step forward and report those crimes, especially if an upward trend has been identified.
- Engage the **media** as soon as possible as partners in restoring victimized communities through sensitive and accurate reporting. Information regarding hate crimes should be prepared for the media in an accurate and timely manner.
- Establish **liaisons** with formal community-based organizations and leaders to mobilize resources that can be used to assist victims and prevent future hate incidents and crimes.
- Accurately **report** any hate crimes on a regular basis – this includes providing the appropriate information to the state crime analysis center or central repository, the FBI, and making information available to the public, subject to confidentiality requirements.

September 2016

---

A publication of the IACP Law Enforcement Policy Center  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

This document is the result of work performed by the IACP Law Enforcement Policy Center. The views and opinions expressed in this document are sanctioned by the center's advisory group and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.