

Monitoring Citizen Complaints That Involve Police Response to Reports of Hate Crime

(Latest Update February 2013)

In addition to MPD’s efforts described in the table below, the Department also deserves credit for steps it has taken that go beyond the specific recommendations contained in PCB’s report. For example, some MPD officers were detailed to the Department’s Special Liaison Branch (SLB) where they received specialized training relating to hate crimes, and then returned to their patrols in the field with ongoing access to SLB resources and guidance. MPD has also repeatedly used its internal daily newsletter to remind officers of the protocols for taking reports of hate crimes.

Recommendation	Status
MPD should collaborate with OPC to establish a system to monitor complaints filed with both agencies that allege inadequate police response to a report of hate crime. MPD should identify relevant complaints even where the complainants may fail to use terms such as “hate crime” or “bias crime.”	Adopted in part, not adopted in part. PCB shared its data with MPD but did not receive a response from the Department. However, MPD reports conducting internal monthly meetings to review all bias-related and hate crimes that occurred in the past month as well as all ongoing hate and bias-related criminal investigations.
MPD should invite other District agencies, such as OPS (formerly DCHAPD) and OHR, to participate in the information-sharing and monitoring process. In the event patterns or trends are identified that suggest the need for corrective action, such information should be noted and brought to the attention of MPD and PCB. Further, to the extent information about these complaints appears appropriate for inclusion in the Mayor’s statutorily mandated report of bias-related crime issues, such information should be transmitted to the appropriate officials.	Adopted. In addition to extensive efforts described in previous annual reports, MPD now adds that it works with the U.S. Attorney’s Office hate crimes representative to share information on cases, including those that may subsequently be deemed a hate crime. The Department also works with college and university security personnel and other law enforcement agencies in the District to support the accurate reporting and investigation of bias/hate-related crimes or incidents.
MPD should utilize the existing framework of the Fair and Inclusive Policing Task Force and the D.C. Bias Crimes Task Force to address community concerns about police responsiveness to hate crime and work with its task force partners to ensure that all constituencies covered by the D.C. Bias-Related Crimes Act receive education and outreach, particularly groups for whom hate crimes data suggest underreporting.	Adopted. MPD indicates that it participates in monthly meetings of the D.C. Bias Crimes Task Force, and reconvened the Fair and Inclusive Task Force, which met in March 2012.