

Monitoring Citizen Complaints That Involve Police Response to Reports of Hate

Last Updated – February 2012)

Recommendation	Status
<p>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.”</p>	<p>Adopted in part. OPC and MPD are collaborating to monitor complaints filed with either agency that allege inadequate police response to hate crimes. OPC has shared its data with MPD, and awaits MPD’s response on data in the Department’s possession.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Adopted. MPD states that it participates in the D.C. Bias Crime Task Force, which is chaired by the United States Attorney and includes representatives from federal and local law enforcement, as well as interested community groups. One of the objectives of the task force is to strengthen the partnership between law enforcement and the community in preventing and responding to hate crimes. In February 2010, MPD hosted the quarterly meeting of the task force and invited other agencies, such as those suggested by PCB in this recommendation, to attend and discuss ways to enhance the sharing of information and training. MPD now reports that the Department submitted a report on bias-related crimes in November 2009, an update in February 2010, and included the topic in the MPD 2009 annual report that was released in July 2010. MPD reports that it continues to work with other law enforcement partners, sharing information and policies on reporting hate crimes.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Pending. MPD has indicated that it participates in regular meetings of the D.C. Bias Crimes Task Force. MPD also reports that it is currently attempting to reconvene the Fair and Inclusive Task Force will schedule a meeting of the task force in the first quarter of 2012.</p>