

Race-hate crimes

Tom / Mary
FYI.
Elena



UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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THOMAS V. MANAHAN
PROSECUTOR OF UNION COUNTY

JAMES F. KEEFE
FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

August 12, 1997

Mr. Bruce Reid
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. Reid:

I have been reading about the Hate Crimes Conference proposed by President Bill Clinton for November 10, 1997. I understand that your Office will play an integral role in both the planning and administration of the event. Bias Crime is a very important issue, one that needs to be addressed by the nation as a whole. The involvement of the President with this forum will serve to spotlight the importance of combating hate crime and will help keep it in the forefront of the concern of the American people.

I believe New Jersey has been one of the states leading the attack on bias crime along many fronts. These fronts include law enforcement, education and community involvement.

Union County, New Jersey, is a virtual gateway to New York City. We are an extremely diverse County in the most diversified area of the United States. Over 500,000 residents live here. Within the school system of our largest City, Elizabeth, there are more than 34 different languages spoken and 50 different ethnicities represented.

I have been the Bias Crime Officer for Union County since January of 1990. Assistant Prosecutor Richard P. Rodbart has been the Supervisor and legal advisor of the unit since its inception in 1988. We are involved with each and every bias incident occurring here with typically sixty or more such crimes occurring annually. We also instruct police recruits and in-service officers on bias crime and cultural awareness. Interacting with the community, including schools, civic, religious, ethnic and cultural groups, is also an important part of our task. The Office has co-sponsored a community forum entitled "Standing

Honorable Janet Reno

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Together Against Hate" for the past three years. I have enclosed a copy of our annual bias crime report for your information.

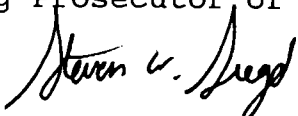
Assistant Prosecutor Rodbart and myself would like to offer our knowledge and experience to you in any way possible to help make this conference a success. Please feel free to contact me at 908-527-4649. We are truly committed to this very important issue.

Respectfully yours,

EDWARD M. NEAFSEY

Assistant Attorney General

Acting Prosecutor of Union County



By: STEVEN W. SIEGEL

Sergeant

Special Prosecutions Unit

jef

UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE : JANUARY 13, 1997

TO : ACTING PROSECUTOR EDWARD M. NEAFSEY
THRU: INVESTIGATIONS SUPERVISOR RICHARD P. RODBART

FROM : SERGEANT STEVEN W. SIEGEL *sws*

RE : 1996 BIAS UNIT SUMMARY

Attached please find the 1996 Bias Unit Summary with statistics.

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c: First Assistant Prosecutor Michael Lapolla
Chief David J. Hancock
Deputy Chief James Dougherty
Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Isenhour
Lieutenant James Durkin
Bias Unit Personnel

1996 BIAS UNIT SUMMARY

Unit Composition

The Unit is comprised of the Bias Crimes Officer, who is a Sergeant responsible for all of the Unit functions, two other Sergeants and a Detective who serve on-call, receive incident reports and conduct or assist with investigations as needed. Investigations Supervisor Richard P. Rodbart oversees Unit operations, makes bias determinations, and authorizes complaints.

Unit Responsibilities and Functions

1. Maintain 24 hour on-call schedule.
2. Receive bias incident reports from municipalities.
3. Oversee and coordinate municipal bias investigations.
4. Assist municipality with bias investigations.
5. Conduct primary bias investigations.
6. Ensure proper reporting of bias incidents to the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Report Unit and New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice.
7. Perform community relations functions relating to bias crime.
8. Classify incidents as bias or non-bias.
9. Authorize filing of bias related complaints/warrants.
10. Maintain bias crime related intelligence.
11. Dissemination of bias intelligence to municipalities.
12. Interact with the New Jersey State Office of Bias Crimes and Community Relations.
13. Interact with the Union County Human Relations Commission
14. Interact with private, public and government entities relating to bias crime, human rights, and cultural diversity.
15. Provide speakers to the public including schools, religious, racial and ethnic organizations.
16. Perform training sessions for police recruits and in-service personnel on bias crime, cultural diversity, sensitivity, and community relations.
17. Maintain administrative files and records on bias crimes.
18. Prepare periodic summary report to Attorney General's Office and Union County Prosecutor's Office.
19. Conduct community assessment.
20. Coordinate pro-active bias reduction efforts.
21. Attend New Jersey Bias Investigators Association meetings.
22. Interact with representatives of the media.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
<u>Incidents Referred to the Office:</u>	80	81	95
<u>Suspected or Confirmed Bias Crimes:</u>	57	55	62
<u>Number of Victims Involved:</u>	63	60	63
<u>Municipality:</u>			
Union	13	6	6
Kean College	9	14	12
Linden	7	7	3
Clark	6	0	3
Cranford	6	13	2
Plainfield	4	2	0
Scotch Plains	3	2	1
Elizabeth	2	4	1
New Providence	2	0	2
Hillside	1	0	2
Rahway	1	1	4
Roselle	1	1	1
Roselle Park	1	1	7
Summit	1	0	7
Berkeley Heights	0	0	1
Fanwood	0	1	0
Garwood	0	0	2
Kenilworth	0	0	0
Mountainside	0	0	2
Springfield	0	0	2
Westfield	0	1	4
Winfield	0	0	0

Bias Crime Offenses (Most serious crime per incident):

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
Murder	1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	4	8	1
Terroristic Threats	5	0	3
Simple Assault	5	8	1
Harassment	13	7	16
Robbery	0	1	4
Burglary	0	1	1
Criminal Mischief	29	36	37

Incidents Cleared:

Cleared by Arrest.....11 (19% cleared)
Total Number of Arrests.....17
Adults Arrested.....10 (59%)
Juveniles Arrested..... 7 (41%)
Exceptional Clearance..... 4 (7%)
Juveniles Exceptionally Cleared... 4

Victim Target:*

Persons	26	(44.1%)
Public property	15	(25.4%)
Private property	18	(30.5%)

Bias Classification:*

Racial	25	(39.1%)
Religious	28	(43.8%)
Sexual orientation	4	(6.3%)
Ethnic	7	(10.9%)
Gender	0	(0%)
Handicapped	0	(0%)

Targeted Victim Groups:*

Jews	28	(43.8%)
African-Americans	22	(34.4%)
Homosexuals	4	(6.3%)
Caucasians	3	(4.7%)
Asian-Indians	3	(4.7%)
Latinos	2	(3.1%)
Arab	1	(1.6%)
Oriental	1	(1.6%)

* Some incidents have multiple classifications or factors, therefore causing the percentage figures to exceed 100%.