

July 2, 2002
General Order #26
Series of 2002

TO ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL:

This policy will supercede General Order #58 Series of 1988 and all other orders relative to the same.

- I. POLICY: It is the policy of the Providence Police Department to ensure that the rights guaranteed by state laws and the United States Constitution are protected for all citizens regardless of their actual or perceived disability, religion, race, color, national origin, or ancestry, sexual orientation or gender. When such rights are infringed upon by violence, threats or other harassment, the Department will use every necessary resource to rapidly and decisively identify the perpetrators, arrest them and bring them before the court. All acts of violence or threats will be viewed as serious, and the investigations will be given priority attention. Such acts generate fear and concern among victims and the public with the potential of recurring, escalating, and possibly causing counter violence.

- II. PROCEDURE:
 - A. Patrol Officer: When the patrol officer arrives on the scene and determines that the incident may be a hate crime, he/she will:
 1. Apprehend the perpetrator (if applicable)
 2. Request a patrol supervisor
 3. Protect the crime scene
 4. Stabilize the victim
 5. Conduct a preliminary investigation
 6. Provide assistance to the victim(s) and/or referral to the appropriate legal or service agency available in the State of Rhode Island
 7. Prepare a uniform report

 - B. District Sergeant: Upon arriving at the scene of a possible hate crime targeted incident, he/she will:
 1. Interview the patrol officer
 2. Determine whether additional personnel, such as BCI are needed
 3. Ascertain if the occurrence is racially or religiously targeted
 4. Take steps to insure that the incident does not escalate
 5. Assist in the stabilization of the victim
 6. Supervise the preliminary investigation

7. Assure that all reports are properly completed and submitted prior to the end of that tour of duty with a copy to the Detective Bureau, or Bureau who will conduct the investigation.

C. Patrol Commander: After having been notified of a hate crime, he/she will:

1. Immediately report to the scene if the incident is determined to be serious
2. Notify Detective Bureau
3. Review all reports
4. Prepare scheduled reports of incidents for the Uniform Commander and/or Chief of Police and Detective Bureau.

D. Commanding Officer of Detective Bureau: Respond or designate the appropriate squad member to the scene of hate crime targeted incidents and notify the Commanding Officer of the Investigative Division who will:

1. Investigator should determine whether community, religious and civic leaders should be informed and if their assistance is needed
2. Canvass the community to identify and interview witnesses
3. Coordinate the investigation with the BCI or other appropriate unit
4. Conduct surveillance's and other appropriate activities to ferret out suspects and/or evidence
5. Coordinate assistance for victim(s)
6. Notify other relevant agencies or networks
7. Maintain liaison with other units of the department
8. Coordinate the investigation with other law enforcement agencies where appropriate
9. Prepare cases for prosecution in court and provide testimony
10. Keep the reporting/arresting officer informed of the status of the case
11. Keep victim informed of the status of the case
12. Develop factual information for Public Information Officer
13. Notify Chief of Police of patterns or anticipated movement of hate groups

E. Community Relations Officer: The Chief of Police will designate appropriate personnel to meet with neighborhood groups, residents in target communities, and other groups to allay fears, reduce the potential for counter-violence and provide safety and protection information. This individual will:

1. Assist victims and their families via available social service agencies in Rhode Island
2. Conduct public meetings on racial/religious threats and violence in general as it relates to specific incidents

3. Establish a liaison with formal minority organizations and leaders if necessary
4. Expand existing preventive programs such as anti-hate seminars for school children through the Youth Service Bureau.

III. HATE CRIMES SENTENCING ACT: (a) "If any person is convicted of a crime charged by complaint, information, or indictment, in which he or she intentionally selected the person against whom the offense is committed or selected the property that is damaged or otherwise affected by the offense because of hatred of or animus toward the actual or perceived disability, religion, color, race, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, or gender of that person or the owner or occupant of that property, he/she shall be subject to penalties provided in this section. (b) Whenever it appears that a person may be subject to the Hate Crime Sentencing Act, the prosecuting agency, no later than the pretrial conference, shall file with the court, a notice specifying that the defendant, upon conviction, is subject to the imposition of sentencing in accordance with this section.

IV. DOCUMENTATION: A copy of all hate crime incidents shall be forwarded to the Investigative Division where a log shall be maintained.

DISSEMINATION: This General Order shall be distributed to all members of this Department who shall sign for its receipt.