



HUNTINGTON BEACH
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT ON HATE CRIMES & HATE INCIDENTS

2021-2022

City of Huntington Beach
Office of the City Manager
2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/HRC



ABOUT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

HBHRC 2022
STUDENT DAY OF DIALOGUE



Founded in 1996, Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee (HBHRC)'s mission is to inspire and promote mutual understanding, respect, safety and the well-being of all in our community through education and engagement. We envision Huntington Beach as a community where all people feel respected, valued, and are free from discrimination and violence.

The HBHRC provides year-round programs and develops initiatives to promote meaningful interaction, education, and engagement with the community. Some examples include HB Listens, Student Day of Dialogue, Cultural Cinema Showcase, Community Summit, and Youth Voices events.

We also work closely with the Huntington Beach Police Department to track reported hate crimes and hate incidents in the City and conduct a wide range of community engagement and education activities.

The HBHRC also establishes ongoing partnerships with various community groups to coordinate citywide efforts towards its mission.

Committee Members

2021- 22

V.C. Rhone*, *Chair*

Debbi Parrott, *Vice Chair*

Jonathan Smith, *Secretary*

Vanessa Chow*, *Member*

Elaine Keeley, PhD., *Member*

Hemesh Patel*, D.O., *Member*

Iliana Velazquez*, *Member*

Timothy Stuart, Esq., *Member*

**Hate Crimes Directives Ad Hoc Committee*

We also acknowledge former Committee member, Teresa Carlisle who assisted with this report.

BACKGROUND

On April 5, 2021, the City Council directed the HBHRC to work with the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) and City staff to publish quarterly data summaries of reported hate crimes and hate incidents on the City website and submit recommendations to address these issues based on community stakeholder input. This was partly in response to an increasing number of hate crimes and incidents against Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) throughout Orange County and to support our policy against any form of hate-motivated crimes.

Ultimately, this report will assist the City to bolster its strong stand against all forms of hate, offer more transparency to the public, and continuously work together toward creating a welcoming environment where every resident, business, and visitor is valued and respected with a sense of belonging.

THE PROCESS

The HBHRC formed an ad-hoc committee to work on this Council directive and has employed the following data collection methods to develop recommendations:

1. Huntington Beach's statistics on reported hate crimes and incidents tracked by the HBPD.
2. Five meetings with the City's HBPD liaison to better understand the City's existing practices of tracking and handling cases involving hate crimes and incidents.
3. Benchmark research on other cities and their approaches to handling hate crimes and hate incidents (Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Santa Ana, and Westminster).
4. Community Stakeholders meeting on August 24, 2022 with 52 invites of faith leaders, community leaders, Visit HB staff, and business owners.

RESEARCH RESULTS

An FBI study[1] shows that hate crimes and hate incidents are grossly underreported. Some barriers and challenges that victims and witnesses experience include but are not limited to:

- Shame and embarrassment
- Not knowing how to report
- Lack of support
- Fear of reprisal or retaliation

Another barrier is the community's lack of understanding of what constitutes a hate crime and a hate incident and what is reportable. At the Community Stakeholders meeting, many expressed the importance of educating the community about clear definitions of hate crimes and hate incidents so that not only both cases can be reported and properly addressed but also we can raise greater public awareness and help deter them in the future.

[1] Ronald L. Davis and Patrice O'Neill, "The Hate Crimes Reporting Gap: Low Numbers Keep Tensions High," *the Police Chief* 83 (May 2016) web-only article

According to the California Department of Justice, both are defined as:

- A **hate crime** is a crime against a person, group or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived social group, based on disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.
- A **hate incident** is broadly defined as an action or behavior motivated by hate but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime, such as name calling, insults, posting or displaying hate materials in property damage and in public places. Hate speech may be protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; however, not only do these incidents negatively impact the victims but also our community at large.

HBDP REPORTING & RESPONSE PROTOCOL

On May 6, 1996, the Huntington Beach City Council unanimously adopted a *Declaration of Policy About Human Dignity*. Over the years, the City has adopted policies and resolutions to stand against all forms of intolerance, racism, and hate, and support diversity, equality and inclusion in Huntington Beach. Most recently, the City Council officially denounced all hate crimes and reaffirmed the City's commitment to safety and inclusivity for all at the April 5, 2021 Council meeting.

The City works closely with the HBDP, the HBHRC, and the community to educate and encourage people to report any hate crimes and hate incidents, so that we can help and support those affected in a timely manner.

Hate Crime

1. Once HBDP receives a 911 or non-emergency call from a victim, witness, or other reporting party, HBDP officers are dispatched to the scene.
2. The scene is made safe and medical attention is provided, if needed.
3. The victim(s) and witness(es) are interviewed.
4. Resources are provided to victims as per the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 28(b): Victim's Bill of Rights Act of 2008, also called Marsy's Law named after a US Santa Barbara college student who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend. The Marsy's Card (available in 12 languages) includes information about rights of and protections to victims of crime and their families. The HBDP provides this card to all victims of any crime, including hate crimes, as well as other resources such as the City's System of Care information (Huntington Beach Navigation Center, Be Well Mobile Crisis Response program, etc.).
5. HBDP Officers in the field work to identify and arrest the suspect(s), if warranted.
6. The officer(s) assigned to the case documents the investigation in a police report. An immediate supervisor review, approve, and report it to the Watch Commander.
7. The Watch Commander emails a synopsis of the crime incident to OC Human Relations and HBDP's hate crime coordinator, who also serves as the HBDP Liaison to the HBHRC and reports such incidents to the HBHRC at their monthly meetings.
8. The Watch Commander sends a daily log of documented crimes in a separate email communication, including hate incidents/hate crimes, to the Police Chief and the City Council.

9. The crime report is forwarded to the Crimes Against Persons detective sergeant, who then assign the case to a proper detective.
10. The detective conducts any needed follow up, determines if the elements of California Penal Code 422.55(a) apply, files the case with the District Attorney's office. The CPC 422.55 outlines what is considered to be a hate crime - crime committed due to the offender's perceptions about the victim's traits.
11. If it is determined as a hate crime, the HBPD will report it to the Department of Justice (DOJ) monthly.

Hate Incident

- 1.If HBPD officers determine that no crime has occurred at the scene but there was a hate incident, no crime report is taken. However, a call number is generated and the incident is documented.
- 2.The officer advises the sergeant and the Watch Commander, who follows the same reporting protocol as Hate Crime above.
- 3.Unlike hate crimes, it is not required to report hate incidents to the DOJ, but the HBPD currently tracks them separately in its crime reports.

HBPD Officers Training

All police officers and supervisors receive training every year on how to respond to hate crimes and hate incidents. As part of their "Implicit/Unconscious Bias and Strategic Communication" training, the HBPD personnel discuss diverse communities in the City and how to lower/remove barriers for victims to report and receive timely help.

Community Stakeholder Survey Polls

Among the Community Stakeholder meeting participants, over 65% of them indicated that they think hate crimes/hate incidents have generally increased in Huntington Beach in the last five years. **A vast majority of them (62.5%) also identified law enforcement as the first point of contact** if they were the victim of a hate crime or hate incident.

The group discussed several ways to address hate crimes/incidents and further support people impacted:

- Sending letters of support to those impacted by hate crimes/incidents with resources and contact info.
- Identifying and removing barriers to reporting hate crimes and incidents.
- Publishing the total number of hate crimes and incidents on a monthly or quarterly basis, in order to promote transparency and public engagement.
- Removing the stigma of being a "victim" of a hate crime by offering a safe platform for survivors to share stories or testimonials and/or organizing support meetings for those impacted by hate crimes and incidents.



YOUTH VOICES HB ESSAY & ART CONTEST HOSTED BY THE HBHRC

HUNTINGTON BEACH HATE CRIME/INCIDENT STATISTICS

Based on the 2021 OC Hate Crimes Report by OC Human Relations Commission, hate crimes have been on the rise with a **165% increase in reported hate crimes and hate incidents in the last five years in the County.**

Compared to 5 years ago, anti-LGBTQ related hate crimes/incidents have increased by 21-fold, anti-AAPI communities by 50-fold, and anti-Semitic cases by 26-fold. One third of the reported hate crimes and hate incidents took place in a public area such as parks or streets.

Last year alone, a total of 1,763 hate crimes were reported in California; in Orange County, there were 97 reported hate crimes and 301 hate incidents.

Huntington Beach, like other communities, has been experiencing similar trends in recent years. In 2021, **Huntington Beach had a total of 8 reported hate crime cases and 5 reported hate incident cases.** The City also responded to several cases of anti-Semitic flyers distributed at our neighborhoods in 2021 and 2022.

55% of 2021 cases were motivated by race/ethnicity/ancestry among all cases. Religion-motivated cases constituted 30%, all of which targeted the Jewish community. The rest (15%) were related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

2021 DATA HUNTINGTON BEACH

13

TOTAL REPORTED HATE CRIMES/INCIDENTS

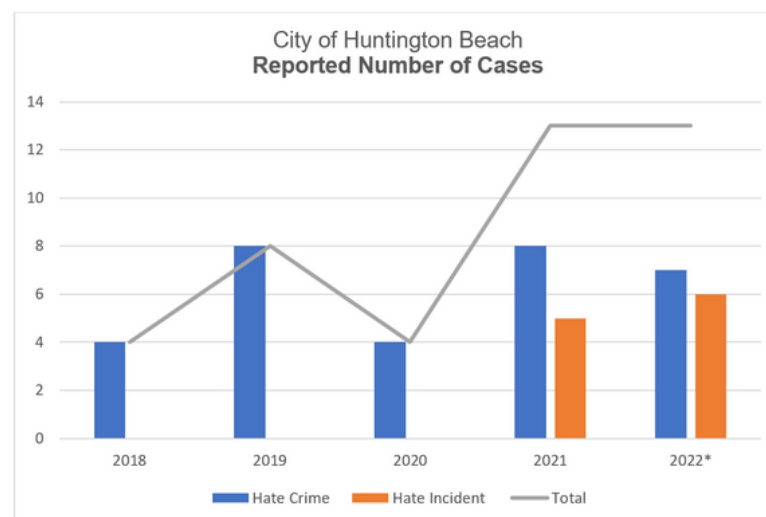
Number of reported hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by race/ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation and/or gender identity during 2021.

YEAR-TO-YEAR DATA REPORTED HATE CRIMES

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022**
Hate Crimes	4	8	4	8	7
Hate Incidents*				5	6
Total	4	8	4	13	13

*HBPD does not have data available before 2021.

**2022 data only indicates cases reported as of July 2022

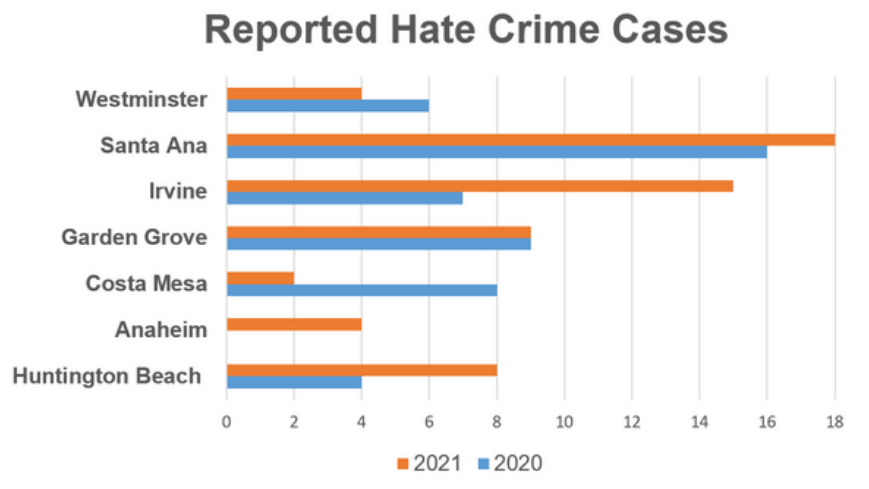


CITY COMPARISONS

According to the CA Dept. of Justice, all other OC benchmark cities experienced an increase in reported hate crime cases (except Costa Mesa & Westminster).

It is important to note that this data includes reported hate crime cases, not fully reflecting the number of unreported cases that may have happened in these comparison cities.

During the course of a year, the HBHRC also studied other cities and spoke with their community leaders and law enforcement officials about how hate crimes and hate incidents are handled in their cities.



	Track & Post Hate Crime Data	Track & Post Hate Incident Data	Citizen Advisory Body	Dedicated City Staff	Dedicated Webpage	Resources Published
Huntington Beach	YES	NO	YES - Human Relations Committee	YES	YES	YES; info on how to report
Anaheim	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Buena Park	NO	NO	YES - Human Relations Committee	YES	YES	NO
Costa Mesa	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	Info on how to report
Irvine	YES	YES	YES; DEI Committee	YES	YES	Info on how to report; resources
Santa Ana	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	Yes; brochures and definition online

RECOMMENDATIONS

Any act of hate against one person is an act against the community as a whole. There is no place for hate in Huntington Beach. As such, the Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee recommends the following:

A. Provide support to victims and persons impacted by hate and direct the HBHRC to create and help the HBPD distribute a Resource Tool Kit, which includes brochures, a letter of support, and community resources.



As the first point of contact for the victims and those affected by hate, the HBPD can incorporate this resource tool kit into their handheld device system to provide information during or after the incident. This kit may include an HBHRC-made postcard with a QR code to a dedicated site with all these resources and a phone number to call to follow up on their case.

A new letter of support has been drafted by the HBHRC Ad-hoc Committee for consideration that reaches out to victims and those affected by hate crimes and/or hate incidents.

B. Plan and implement a system to track hate crimes and hate incidents and publish the quarterly report on the City's website.

Currently, the HBPD tracks hate crimes to be reported to the Department of Justice via their reporting system. The HBPD began to manually document and track hate incidents since 2021 and is in the process of updating its centralized crime data/reporting software system, which will be implemented in mid-2023. This progress will enable HBPD officers to track, report, and address both hate crimes and hate incidents.

Additionally, the HBHRC recommends cross reporting of aggregated data of hate crimes and hate incidents between the HBPD, the HBHRC, and the OC Human Relations (OCHR) regularly, so that the statistical information is all consistent. It is important to continue current practice of having the HBPD Liaison to the HBHRC attend monthly HBHRC meetings and address any hate crimes and incidents that occurred that month. A quarterly statistic report with aggregated data without confidential information should be submitted by the Police Chief's designee to the City Manager's Office and the HBHRC via its staff liaison. The same report should be also submitted to the OCHR.

The HBHRC will use such data to identify and discuss any trends to develop community engagement and prevention activities accordingly. The quarterly report could be uploaded and published on the following City's website pages along with the resource toolkit:

- The City's DEI website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/DEI
- The City's HBHRC webpage: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/HRC
- The HBPD website: www.hbpd.org or subset page dedicated to hate crimes & resources

RECOMMENDATIONS

C. Support the HBHRC to plan, promote, and implement meaningful community engagement opportunities such as:

- Hosting an annual or biennial community team building event, in partnership with the City;
- Conducting more preventative training by the OCHR or other specialized partners for the HBHRC members, City staff, and community leaders;
- Expanding the HBHRC's efforts to engage youth members as our social justice leaders and bolster their voices against hate across their schools, neighborhoods, and online communities; and/or
- Partnering with the HBPD's Neighborhood Watch programs to provide information and educational materials to engage the community on issues of hate crimes and hate incidents.

Other recommendations for future consideration include:

- Request the City to consider adding more financial support to hire/partner with a subject-matter-expert(s) in human rights, DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), and/or community engagement.

Having an expert would benefit the City to conduct a more thorough examination of the specific needs of the City and further provide a more coordinated anti-hate, anti-discrimination effort to the City team and its residents.

- Request the City to define and/or expand roles and responsibilities of the HBHRC. In reviewing common practices of Boards, Committees, and Commissions of the other municipalities, the HBHRC Ad-hoc subcommittee has noted that some cities use committees while others use boards or commissions. For example, the City of San Diego's Human Relations Commissioners are empowered to draft and promulgate regulations, investigate policy, and mediate disputes of discrimination, exclusion, and bias. By understanding these different approaches, the Ad-hoc subcommittee recommends the City complete a needs assessment on the HBHRC's roles and responsibilities.

**ANY ACT OF HATE
AGAINST ONE PERSON IS
AN ACT AGAINST THE
COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.**

Huntington Beach City Council
March 31, 2022

REFERENCES

Hate crime data & related information

- 2021 Attorney General Hate Crime Report - <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Hate%20Crime%20In%20CA%202021%20FINAL.pdf>
- 2021 OCHR Hate Crimes Report - https://www.ochumanrelations.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Hate-Crime-Report-2021-_final.pdf
- OCHR Guidelines for Responding to Hate - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vCAmNmEm9P8iXmsFa5a_sF5G2yjYB8d1/view?usp=sharing

Support Letter to victims and those affected

- HBHRC Old Hate Crime Victim Letter of Support - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BtgQmMrKNB_glOyrZdGIIeBYMqrmokCM/view?usp=sharing
- Recommended Revised Letter of Support for Those Impacted by Hate - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19DDtN805PZKAk17nf63U8sZeI9t8584F/view?usp=sharing>

Research on other municipalities/agencies

- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department - <https://lasd.org/transparency>
- City of Irvine - <https://www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-police-department/reporting-hate-crimes-and-hate-incidents>
- LA vs. Hate - www.lavshate.org
- Report Hate Crimes in Orange County - hatecrime.211oc.org
- Anaheim Police Department How to File a Report - <https://www.anaheim.net/1643/File-a-Police-Report>
- Buena Park Human Relations Committee - https://buenapark.com/human_relations_committee/index.php
- Long Beach Equity & Human Relations Commission - <https://www.longbeach.gov/health/healthy-living/office-of-equity/human-relations-commission/>
- Costa Mesa's Victim and Community Resources - <https://www.costamesaca.gov/city-hall/city-departments/police/police-information/victim-and-community-resources>
- Irvine's Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Page - <https://www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-police-department/reporting-hate-crimes-and-hate-incidents>
- The San Diego Human Relations Commission - <https://www.sandiego.gov/human-relations>
- The City of Santa Ana's Hate Crimes page with downloadable brochures - <https://www.santa-ana.org/hate-crime-reports/>
- The City of Westminster Hate Crimes vs. Hate Incidents Chart: <https://www.westminster-ca.gov/departments/police/services/investigations-bureau/hate-crimes>