



PASSAIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

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(U//LES) This Situational Awareness Report is intended to provide an overview of Bias incidents and/or crimes reported in Passaic County in 2017 which may include information that may affect the county's threat posture.

18 August 2017

Summary

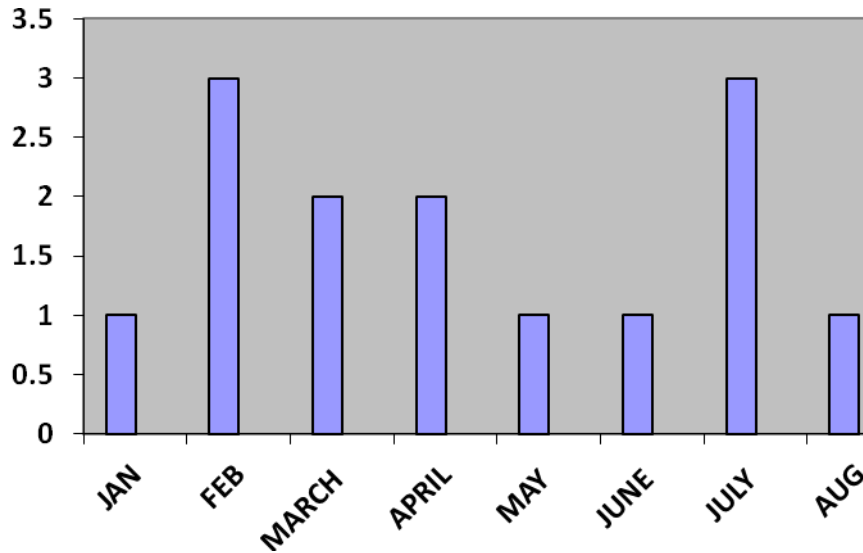
Between January 1, 2017-August 18, 2017 the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office had fourteen (14) Bias Incidents reported to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office from several municipalities.

BIAS INCIDENT REPORTING 2017

In regard to these incidents, when a crime was committed during the course of these incidents the most commonly reported was Criminal Mischief with seven (7) or 50% of the reporting. Harassment was the second highest crime reported with four (4) or 29% of the incidents reported. Burglary was reported during one (1) or 7% of the incidents. Two (2) or 14% of the incidents reported did not rise to the level of a Bias Crime however was reported as a Bias Incident.

January 1, 2017 - August 18, 2017 (14 cases reported)

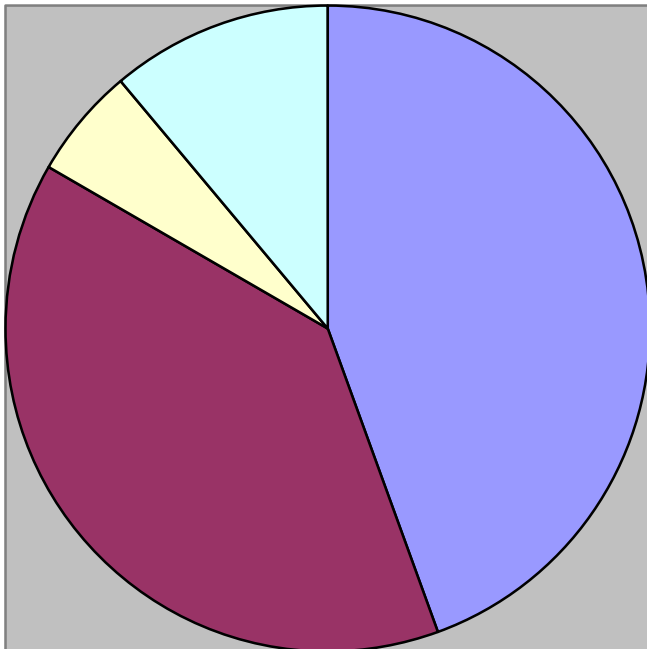
JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG
1	3	2	2	1	1	3	1



Overview

The greatest amount of Bias Incidents occurred in Passaic County in the month of February and July 2017 with three (3) incidents or 21%. March and April 2017 had the second highest amount of incidents with four (2) or 14%. There was one (1) incident or 7% in January, May, June and August 2017 (**cutoff date 08/18/2017). It should be noted that when comparing the time period of 1st & 2nd Quarter 2017 vs. 1st & 2nd Quarter 2016 (January 1, 2016-June 30, 2016 vs. January 1, 2017-June 30, 2017) there were fourteen (14) cases reported 2016 vs. nine (9) cases reported 2017 which is a 35% decrease.

2017 Bias Incidents Reported by Passaic County Municipalities



■ CLIFTON-29%

■ MONTCLAIR
STATE-50%

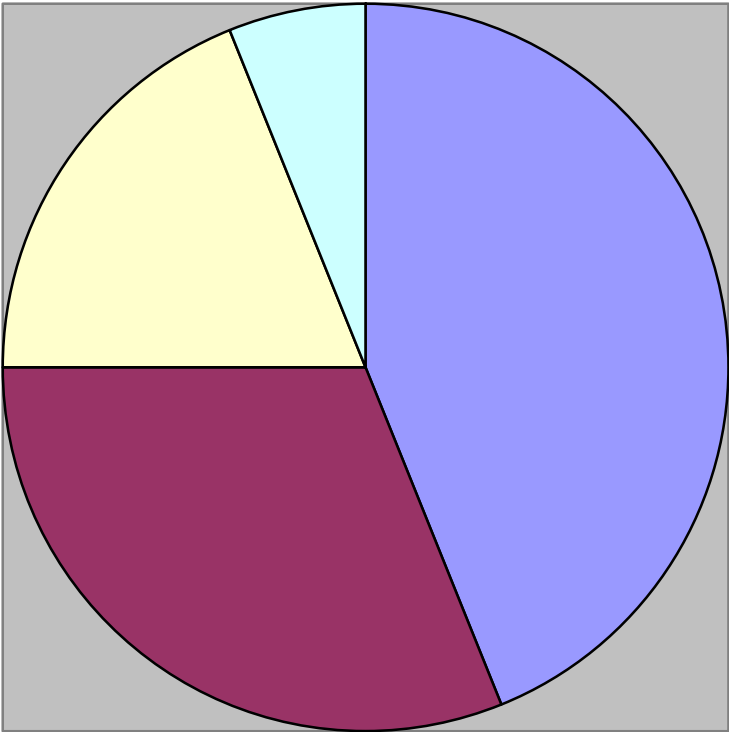
■ PASSAIC-7%

■ POMPTON LAKES-
14%

Overview

From January 1, 2017-August 18, 2017, Montclair State University had the greatest number of Bias Incidents reported with seven (7) incidents reported or 50%. The city of Clifton had the second highest amount of incidents reported with four (4) incidents or 29%. Pompton Lakes Police Department had two (2) incidents or 14% reported in their municipality. Passaic Police Department had one (1) incident or 7% reported in their municipality.

2017 Bias Incidents/Victims Reported By Group



ANTI-AFRICAN AMERICAN-44%

ANTI-JEWISH-31%

BIAS AGAINST NATIONAL ORIGIN-19%

ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL-6%

Overview

In 2017 the most commonly reported incident was Anti-African American sentiment(s) with seven (7) or 44% of the victims and/or incidents. Anti-Jewish sentiment(s) was the second highest reported by victims and/or incidents with five (5) or 31%. There were two victims and/or incidents or 19% regarding individuals being targeted due to their national origin/ethnicity. Anti-Homosexual sentiment had one (1) or 6% of victims and/or incidents.

****It should be noted that some of the incidents reported had more than one victim and/or actor in this Bias reporting.*

****It should be noted that three of the incidents reported had more than one of the protected groups targeted which was indicated in these statistics.*

Impact

Bias incidents and/or crimes can have a negative effect on communities and their victims. Victims of Bias incidents and /or crimes may be reluctant to report them due to fear or further intimidation.

Recommendations

Law Enforcement should remain vigilant in reporting Bias Incidents and/or crimes. Municipalities should stay in contact with their religious houses of worship as well as community leaders to heighten awareness regarding Bias incidents and/or crimes to request information on similar incidents as well as encourage victim(s) to report these incidents.

Bias Crimes training to municipal Police Departments would ensure proper reporting and protocols to further guarantee that these crimes and/or incidents are being handled accordingly.

Law Enforcement must also keep in mind when investigating any posts made on social media or the distribution of materials, to properly differentiate if a crime was committed or if in fact an individual is exercising their First Amendment rights protected under Freedom of Speech. This will ensure that these incidents and/or crimes are properly reported and investigated thoroughly.

These incidents and/or crimes are a priority to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. Municipalities must continue to follow the NJ Attorney General's Bias Crimes reporting protocols to ensure that the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office is adhering to their policies.

Request for Information

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Bias Crime Officer requests information on any similar unreported and/or current incidents regarding Bias incidents and/or crimes within Passaic County. Such activity should be reported immediately per existing Attorney General's Bias Crimes reporting.

Bias Incidents and/or crimes can be reported to Detective First Grade Nancy Petrara-Stafyleras 973-837-7735. [**Nstafyleras@passaiccountynj.org**](mailto:Nstafyleras@passaiccountynj.org)

Any legal questions regarding Bias incidents and/or crimes can be referred to Senior Assistant Prosecutor Vivian Khalil 973-837-7705. [**vkhalil@passaiccountynj.org**](mailto:vkhalil@passaiccountynj.org)