



PASSAIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

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

9 February 2018

Summary

Between January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017 the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office had forty-three (43) Bias incidents reported to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office from several municipalities. *****cut off date 12/31/2017.*

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office views these incidents very seriously. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office will ensure every effort is made to make certain these incidents are handled properly as per the New Jersey Attorney General's Office mandate. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office position is, that there no tolerance for hate in our communities.

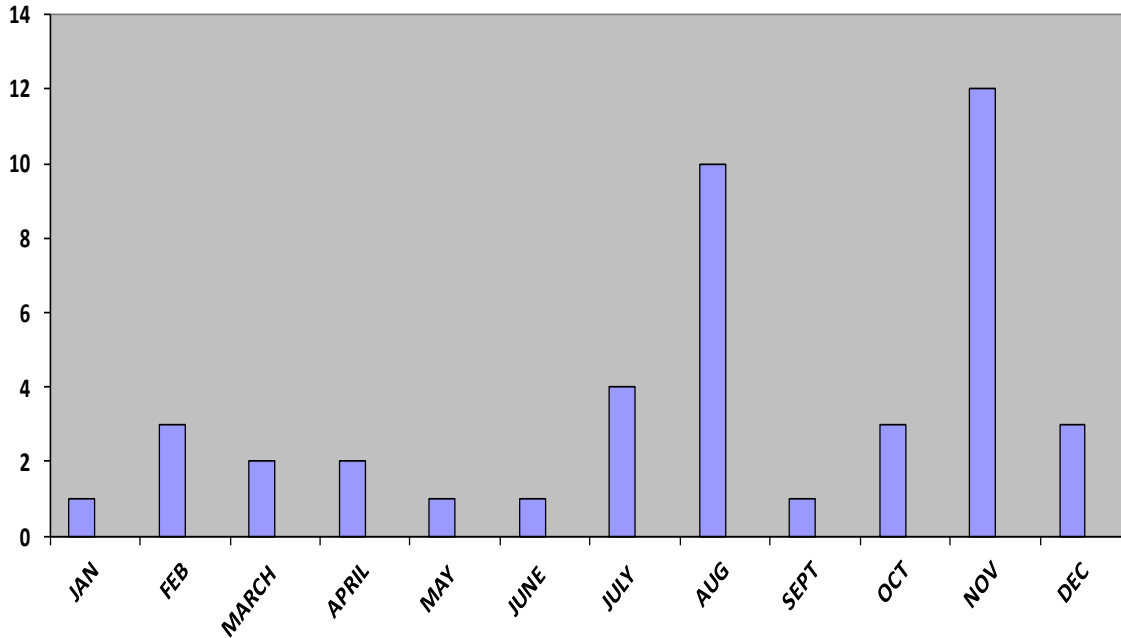
BIAS INCIDENT REPORTING 2017

When a crime was committed during the course of these incidents the most commonly reported crime was Criminal Mischief with twenty-three (23) or 53% of the reporting. Harassment was the second highest crime reported with thirteen (13) or 30% of the incidents reported. There were two (2) Assaults or 5% of the reported incidents. Burglary was reported during one (1) or 2% of the incidents as well. Four (4) or 10% of the incidents reported did not rise to the level of a Bias crime, however was reported as a Bias incident.

In 2017 there were two separate cases where an individual was arrested and charged with Bias Intimidation as well as one of the crimes listed above.

Bias incidents by month
January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017 (43 cases reported)

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	3	2	2	1	1	4	10	1	3	12	3

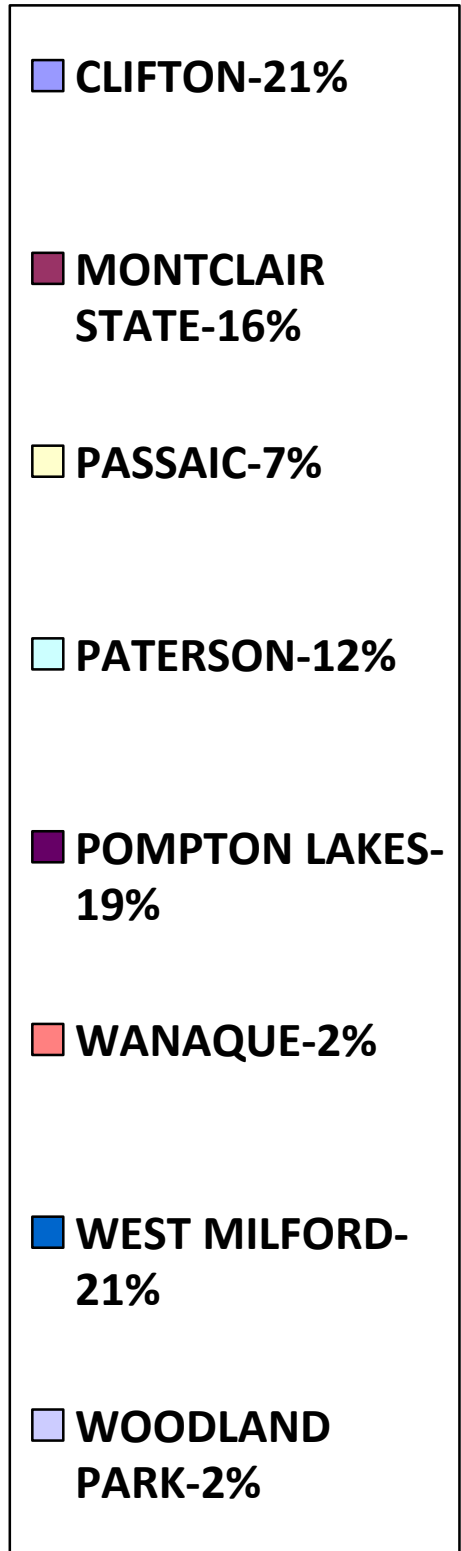
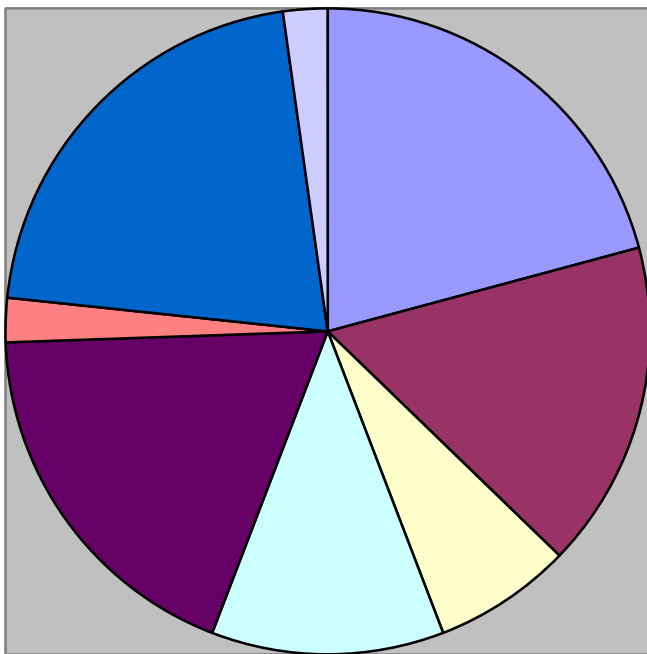


Overview

The greatest amount of Bias incidents occurred in Passaic County in the month of November 2017 with twelve (12) incidents or 28%. August 2017 had the second highest amount of incidents with ten (10) or 24%. There were four (4) incidents or 9% in the month of July 2017. February, October and December 2017 had three (3) or 7% of the incidents. March and April 2017 each had two (2) incidents or 5%. January, May, June and September of 2017 each had one (1) incident or 2% ***cutoff date 12/31/2017.*

It should be noted that when comparing the time period of January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017 (43 cases) vs. January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016 (30 cases) there was a 43% increase of incidents in this reporting period.

2017 Bias Incidents Reported by Passaic County Municipalities

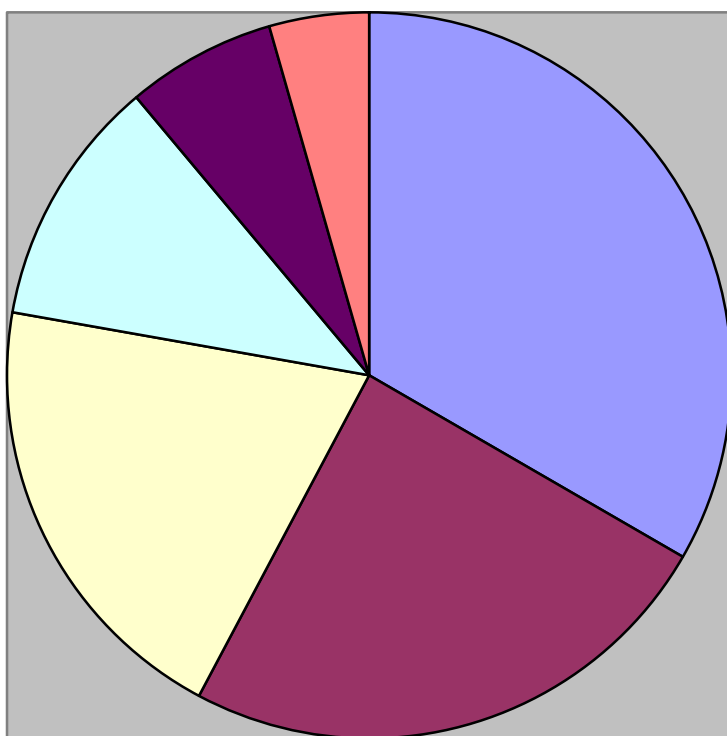


Overview

From January 1, 2017-October 31, 2017, Clifton and West Milford had the greatest number of Bias incidents reported with nine (9) or 21%. Pompton Lakes Police Department had the second highest number of Bias incidents reported with eight (8) incidents reported or 19%. Montclair State University had the third highest amount of incidents reported with seven (7) incidents or 16%. Paterson Police Department had five (5) incidents or 12% reported in their city. Passaic Police Department had three (3) incidents or 7% reported in their municipality. Wanaque and Woodland Park Police Department each had one (1) incident or 2% in this reporting period.

****Please note in all nine (9) cases in West Milford, further investigation revealed all cases to be related with the same alleged actor. He was subsequently arrested and charged accordingly.*

2017 Bias Incidents/Victims Reported By Group



- ANTI-AFRICAN AMERICAN-33%**

- ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL-24%**

- ANTI-JEWISH-20%**

- ANTI-ISLAMIC-11%**

- BIAS AGAINST NATIONAL ORIGIN-8%**

- ANTI CAUCASIAN-4%**

Overview

In 2017 the most common reported incidents and/or victims was regarding Anti-African American sentiment(s) with fifteen (15) or 33% of the incidents and/or victims reported. Anti-Homosexual sentiment(s) was the second highest with eleven (11) or 24% of the victims and/or incidents reported. Anti-Jewish sentiment(s) was the third highest reported by victims and/or incidents with nine (9) or 20%. Anti-Islamic sentiment(s) was reported in five (5) or 11% of the incidents and/or victims. Anti-Caucasian sentiment(s) was reported in two (2) or 4% of the incidents and/or victims. There were three (3) victims and/or incidents or 8% reported regarding the individuals being targeted due to their national origin/ethnicity.

****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 is reflected in these statistics.*

Impact

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

Recommendations

Law Enforcement should continue to properly document reports of Bias incidents and/or Bias 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 Bias crimes to request information on similar incidents as well as encourage victim(s) to report these incidents.

Continued Bias crimes training to municipal Police Departments to ensure proper reporting and protocols to further guarantee that Bias crimes and/or Bias 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 appropriately 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 all incidents and/or crimes will be properly reported and investigated thoroughly.

Bias incidents and/or Bias crimes are a high priority to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. Municipalities must continue to follow the New Jersey 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 Bias crimes within Passaic County. Such activity should be reported immediately per existing New Jersey Attorney General's Bias Crimes reporting protocols.

Bias incidents and/or Bias crimes can be reported to Detective First Grade Nancy Petrara-Stafyleras 973-837-7735. Nstafyleras@passaiccountynj.org

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