

# JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS

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**PURPOSE:** To give guidelines for officers to investigate hate crimes.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of this Department to safeguard the state and federal rights of all individuals regardless of their race, religion, ethnic background or sexual orientation. Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other crimes designed to infringe upon these rights are viewed very seriously by this Department and will be given high priority. This Department will use every resource to rapidly and decisively identify the perpetrators, arrest them, and pursue vigorous enforcement action. Recognizing the particular fears and distress typically suffered by victims of these crimes, minimization of the potential acts of reprisal and escalation of violence will act to reduce the potential far-reaching negative consequences of these acts on the community and the Department. Particular attention shall be given to addressing the security and related concerns of the immediate victims as well as their families and others affected by the crime.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- I. HATE CRIME: Any unlawful action designed to frighten, harm, injure, intimidate or harass an individual, in whole or in part, because of a bias motivation against the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnic background, or sexual orientation of the victim.
- II. RACE: A group of persons who possess common physical characteristics (i.e. color of skin, eyes and/or hair, facial features, etc.) genetically transmitted by descent and heredity that distinguish them as a distinct division of mankind (i.e. Asians, African Americans, etc.)
- III. ETHNIC GROUP: A group of persons of the same race or national origin who share common or similar traits, languages, customs and traditions (i.e. Hispanics, Arabs, etc.)
- IV. RELIGIOUS GROUP: Any persons who share the same religious beliefs regarding the origin and purpose of the universe and the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being (i.e. Catholics, Jews, Protestants, atheists, etc.)
- V. SEXUAL ORIENTATION: A sexual attraction toward, and responsiveness to, members of one's own sex or members of the opposite sex.

### **PROCEDURES:**

- I. INITIAL OFFICER RESPONSE PROCEDURES  
When an officer at the scene of an incident believes that it may have been motivated by racial, religious, ethnic, or sexual orientation (RRES) bias, the officer shall take any preliminary actions necessary, such as:
  - A. Restoring order to the crime scene and taking any necessary actions to gain control of the situation;
  - B. Identifying any injured parties and taking steps to provide medical assistance;
  - C. Determining whether any perpetrators are present and, if so, taking appropriate enforcement measures;