

WALLET CARD

HATE CRIMES

What to do if it happens to you

•Protect Yourself • Know the Law • Report the Crime

HATE CRIME: DEFINITION

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/national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or disability of the victim.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1) Protect yourself. Defuse the situation if at all possible. Do not respond to taunts.
- 2) Call 911 immediately. Consult this card and state you are reporting a hate crime.
- 3) Note the physical descriptions of the suspects in as much detail as possible.
- 4) Write down everything that was said and done, including the time and location.
- 5) File a police report (See other side)
- 6) Get involved. Be a witness if someone else is a victim.
- 7) If you know the suspects, ask about obtaining a restraining order.

HOW TO FILE A POLICE REPORT

EMERGENCY: 911 NON-EMERGENCY: 327-1441

1) Stress that the crime was motivated by hate based on perceived sexual orientation. You do not have to reveal your sexual orientation to report the crime and you should not be asked to. It is the suspect's perception that matters. Whether or not the perception is correct is irrelevant under the law.

2) Describe *in detail* the date or prejudice that was expressed and what caused you to fear harm.

EXAMPLES:

"They approached in a menacing manner, called me *Faggot* in an angry voice, and then threatened to kill me."

"They drove by us as we walked down the sidewalk, shouted *Dykes* out the window and hurled a beer bottle at us."

3) Get the report number from the responding officer.

PSPD HATE CRIMES POLICY

It is the policy of the Palm Springs Police Department to ensure that the rights guaranteed to all, irrespective of their race, religion, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or disability are protected.

Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other crimes designed to infringe upon those rights will be handled with the utmost priority.

Particular attention shall be given to addressing the safety and related concerns of the victims as well as their families and others affected by the crime.