



## **Bias Incidents and Crimes Reporting Procedures for Reporting Alleged Bias Incidents/Crimes**

The Bernards Township Police Department is committed to the investigation and prosecution of crimes with a component of intimidation based on race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or ethnicity, which can jeopardize the active and open pursuit of freedom and opportunity.

We take these incidents seriously and are committed to bring the investigative and enforcement elements of our agency into quick action following all suspected or confirmed bias incidents. We shall investigate them in a timely fashion using all appropriate resources to rapidly determine the facts and circumstances surrounding each incident. We will work diligently to identify the motive and cause of the incident as well as the identity of all suspects. We will conduct a thorough and complete investigation of all suspected or confirmed bias incidents and cooperate with prosecutors in the prompt and appropriate prosecution of these matters.

***The Bernards Township Police Department is committed to the following:***

- Encouraging the public to contact the police when a bias incident occurs;
- Ensuring that all agency personnel are properly trained;
- Ensuring that we will respond to all such complaints in a timely manner and conduct a thorough initial as well as follow-up investigation to its logical conclusion;
- Taking appropriate actions to provide extra security, as needed;
- Approaching victims in a sensitive and supportive manner;
- Enlisting the assistance of the community and community groups in an effort to moderate the impact of the incident and to reduce the risk of counter-violence;

- Maintaining contact with appropriate community leaders concerning the incident as long as the information to be shared will not jeopardize or compromise the investigation and/or is confidential in nature;
- Ensuring that the victims, and as appropriate, other concerned parties, are informed of the final disposition of the investigation;
- Ensuring that referrals to victim's services are made in a timely manner, as appropriate;
- Ensure that victims and other concerned parties are afforded all rights and protections provided for under the N.J. Constitutional Amendment for Victim Rights and the Crime Victims Bill of Rights.

Any person who wishes to report an alleged bias incident occurring in Bernards Township should contact the Police Department at **(908) 766-1122**.