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- I. Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to establish the Division's responsibilities for the handling of Hate/Violence (RRE)* incidents. The Division will immediately conduct a thorough investigation of all malicious or criminal incidents occurring within the park system that are racial, religious or ethnic (RRE) in motivation and will support maximum prosecution of those who are apprehended for such acts. Maryland state law requires all law enforcement agencies of the state to report to the Maryland State Police "...information relating to incidents directed against racial, religious or ethnic groups." The Division will ensure that all such incidents are reported to MSP and that violations are dealt with immediately.

- II. Policy

It is the policy of this Division to bring its investigative, operational and support elements into quick action following any and all reported or observed racial, religious or ethnic (RRE) hate/violence incidents. Special emphasis will be given to victim assistance and community cooperation in order to reduce victim/community trauma and fear.

- III. Definitions

The following criteria are to be used in determining whether or not an incident is of a racially, religiously or ethnically (RRE) biased nature and whether or not it is covered by this Directive. The list is not all-inclusive. Some incidents may not clearly fit a specific definition. In those cases, a common-sense approach must be used. If it looks like an incident of RRE bias, then it is and should be reported as such. Verification can be made later in the investigation. The key criterion in determining whether these incidents fit into the definition of an incident of RRE bias is the motivation behind the act.

- A. Examples of criminal acts which may be directed at a racial, religious or ethnic group include (*Criminal Law, Title 10, Crimes Against Public Health, Conduct and Sensibilities*):

- 1. Burning cross or religious symbol
- 2. Explosives - Perpetrated against a person or group of persons because of RRE origin.
- 3. Bomb threats -Perpetrated against a person or group of persons because of RRE origin.
- 4. Destroying, injuring property of another - Perpetrated against a person or group of persons because of RRE origin. Any written language or symbol which has been historically directed against persons because of their RRE origin will be reported.

* The abbreviation "RRE" will refer to racial, religious and ethnic incidents and/or groups throughout this Directive.

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5. Assault - Any verbal threat or assault and battery which is directed against a person or persons because of RRE origin.
 6. Disorderly conduct - Which disturbs the peace and tranquility of the community and is directed against a person or persons because of RRE origin.
 7. Interrupting or disturbing religious meetings - Directed against a person or persons because of RRE origin.
 8. Possession of a firearm in proximity of a public demonstration - Which occurs at a public RRE demonstration.
 9. Unlawful use of the telephone_- Which is directed against any RRE group because of their RRE origin.
 10. All common law offenses as they would pertain to acts of RRE intimidation, hatred, etc.
- B. Any non-criminal act directed at any RRE group or individuals within these groups which, while not criminal, is done with the apparent or deliberate intention to:
1. Harass.
 2. Intimidate.
 3. Threaten.
 4. Retaliate.
 5. Create RRE conflict.
- IV. Criteria for Verification
- A. To determine if an incident is a RRE motivated act officers will consider the following criteria. The initial verification will be made by the on duty Watch Commander/Shift OIC at the time the incident is reported or observed. Since the below listed criteria are not all-inclusive, when necessary, the Watch Commander/Shift OIC will notify the Investigative Services supervisor for a final determination.
1. Motive as may be determined by the investigating officer based on a common-sense review of the circumstances surrounding the entire incident itself (i.e., the totality of circumstances).
 2. Display of any RRE offensive symbol(s), word(s) or act(s).
 3. Effect on the victim(s).
 4. Statement(s) of suspect(s)/victim(s).
 5. Prior history of similar incidents in the same area or against the same RRE group.
 6. A violation of any of the *laws* enumerated in this Section outlining criteria for reporting RRE acts.
- B. If, after applying the criteria listed above and asking the appropriate questions, a reported RRE incident cannot be definitely determined to be any other type of problem (or is a borderline case), it will be verified as such for investigative and statistical purposes.
- V. Procedures
- A. All Officers
1. Will, at all times, respond in a sensitive way to the feelings and needs of victims.

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2. Will, upon discovering or responding to a RRE hate/violence incident, immediately take all possible investigative and enforcement action and preserve the crime scene and any evidence present.
 3. Will immediately notify the Watch Commander/Shift OIC if any RRE motivated destruction or defacement of property has occurred or is suspected.
 4. Will gather evidence, including photos, and conduct a thorough search of the crime scene when instructed to do so by Investigative Services Detectives.
 4. Will prepare a detailed written report, documenting all facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Report will be clearly classified as RRE.
 5. Will ensure that the written report contains full data on the materials used (cross, literature, paint, etc.) including size, construction, wrappings, messages, plus the method of removal and the disposition of the remains.
- B. Watch Commander/Shift OIC
1. Will immediately respond to the scene of all RRE hate/violence incidents occurring within the jurisdiction of this Division where there is a victim (as opposed to a complainant).
 2. Will ensure that the crime scene is adequately protected and that the Investigative Services supervisor has been notified if any RRE motivated destruction or defacement has taken place.
 3. Will notify the office of the Fire Marshall whenever a cross burning, arson or other malicious burning has occurred.
 4. Will ensure that the Special Services supervisor is notified of the incident.
 5. Will ensure that crime scene procedures are followed.
 6. Will ensure that all physical remains of the incident are removed after processing has been completed. If the remains are too large to be transported by police cruiser, maintenance will be contacted for use of an appropriate transport vehicle. If the remains cannot be physically carried away (paint on walls, etc.) maintenance will be contacted for immediate cleaning or repair.
 7. Will ensure that all photographs taken are forwarded to the Investigative Services for follow-up investigation.
 8. Will arrange for increased directed patrol of the area as needed.
- C. Investigative Services
- Will determine whether a respond to the scene is necessary:
1. Obtain a sample of the cross, paints or other materials used.
 2. Photograph and process the scene.
 3. Gather and take custody of any related evidence.
 4. Begin an immediate follow-up investigation of the incident.
- D. Special Services Section
1. *May* conduct a neighborhood canvass to inform residents of the incident and gather appropriate information concerning the general "climate" of the community.
 2. *May* attempt to mobilize community sentiment against the act(s) of the perpetrator(s) in a positive manner, calming the victim's community to prevent retaliatory actions.

3. *May* enlist the aid of religious groups, community groups, business groups, educational groups and leaders in all areas of society in an effort to obtain public condemnation of the incident.
 4. Will report any investigative leads or information to Investigative Services.
- F. Records Section Supervisor
1. Will ensure that all RRE motivated incidents are reported to the Maryland State Police in accordance with the requirements of the law.

**Approved Park Police Document
Signed Original on File**

End of Directive