



CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS 2024 HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS REPORT

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Executive Summary

PURPOSE

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), the City’s civil rights agency, is mandated to produce this annual report by the City’s Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance (Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code of Chicago). The report is intended as a summary of our work addressing hate crimes and hate incidents that occur within the City of Chicago. Its purpose is to inform the City Council and the public about the City’s initiatives for addressing the problem of hate crimes and hate incidents.

The report is comprehensive. The ordinance requires CCHR to provide hate crimes and hate incidents data organized by community area, bias motivation, type of incident, and disposition (to the extent known). It also requires CCHR to provide an overview of hate crimes and hate incidents from local, regional, and national perspectives; an overview of CCHR’s activities regarding hate crimes and hate incidents; plus, any findings and recommendations to reduce or eliminate hate crimes and hate incidents.

MAIN POINTS

Hate crimes and hate incidents are national and regional problems that also impact Chicago.

There is no universal definition of hate crimes or hate incidents, nor universal standards of measurement and reporting. Nevertheless, data from across the various national, regional and local jurisdictions indicates that recent years have seen record-high increases in reported hate crimes and hate incidents.

Global crises drive these increases. So do political partisanship and rhetoric, White nationalist propaganda, and online conspiracy theories.

Historically, African Americans, members of the Jewish community, and LGBTQ+ victims have been targeted most often. The COVID-19 pandemic also saw Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders targeted like never before. Likewise, the increase in asylum-seekers and other migrants has accompanied record numbers of hate crimes and

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hate incidents against Latine victims.¹ Now, the Israel-Hamas war is driving a sharp increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes and hate incidents.²

Despite these increases, only a fraction of hate crimes get reported. The reasons for this are complex. People do not always recognize a hate crime when they experience one. Some fear retaliation. Others may not trust the police or the criminal justice system.

CCHR works with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) to handle the civilian side of hate crimes reported in Chicago. Our Hate Crime Victim Advocate helps victims cope with the aftermath. The advocate tracks their cases through the criminal justice system, accompanies victims to court and meetings with detectives, and provides referrals for other City or non-profit services.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's Administration is expanding the City's response to the epidemic of hate. In December, the City Council amended the City's Hate Crimes Ordinance for the first time in 30 years. Now, it includes non-criminal hate incidents. It also includes new data collection and reporting requirements, to increase transparency. This new data may lead to new approaches to address the problem of hate.

CCHR partnered with CPD to win a U.S. Department of Justice grant to create a community-based hate crimes reporting pilot program. This pilot program will operate in collaboration with several community-based organizations (CBOs). The CBOs will help with outreach to educate their communities about hate crimes. They will serve as culturally competent spaces for victims to report hate crimes to police. The program will supplement 911 and 311 reporting options, but not replace those. CCHR and CPD intend for the program to enhance police/community relations, build trust, and facilitate the reporting of hate crimes that otherwise would have gone unreported.

CCHR engages in various other initiatives and programming designed to bring people from different demographic groups together to discuss and work on solutions. Last December,

¹ CCHR recognizes that individuals use a wide variety of terms to refer to members of their own demographic group. (For example, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino/Latinx/Latine, Asian/Asian American/Asian American-Pacific Islander/Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, etc.) This report cites a wide range of sources which use various terms. Some sources use different terms interchangeably, within the same document. In this report, CCHR cautiously uses various terms, as well. Often this is done in direct quotes or in alignment with sources. CCHR recognizes that language evolves, and opinions differ as to appropriate terms. It is not CCHR's intent to endorse any term. We encourage the use of whatever terms are deemed appropriate by members of a given group.

² https://www.apstylebook.com/topical_most_recent This report cautiously refers to the present conflict as the 'Israel-Hamas war.' This is the term recommended by the Associated Press (AP), a not-for-profit news service. Their guidance is, "compiled from Associated Press coverage, AP experts and the AP Stylebook." The AP states that words to describe the present conflict, "should be chosen carefully to reflect respect for different perspectives on the conflict." The AP further states that they are, "calling the present conflict...a war, given the widespread and ongoing nature of military operations." CCHR acknowledges that opinions differ over the conflict and over the appropriate terms to use. It is not CCHR's intent to endorse any position or term. Our work depends on remaining neutral. We serve every demographic group within the City, and we partner with communities across the City to advance peace.

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we launched the *Think Before You Hate* campaign on buses and trains. We are following up with posters, fliers, and social media to drive traffic to our website. We expect that this will help promote the amended ordinance and pilot program, plus our other initiatives.

KEY EVENTS TIMELINE

CCHR Unity Brunch	January 2023
CCHR Unity Summit	July 2023
Award of DOJ Grant	October 2023
<i>Think Before You Hate</i> Ad Campaign	December 2023
Hate Crimes Ordinance Amended	December 2023
Annual Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Report	June 2024

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Total Numbers are discussed on Pages 16 – 20.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chicago’s Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance mandates that this annual report should contain findings and recommendations to reduce or eliminate hate crimes and hate incidents. These may include an evaluation of City policies and procedures ensuring that hate crimes and hate incidents are comprehensively investigated, tracked, and reported; and that survivors receive assistance from City agencies, as appropriate.

To that end, the report makes the following recommendations:

1. Pass the proposed hate littering ordinance.
2. Review the staffing model in the CPD Civil Rights Unit for mission optimization.
3. Connect 311 hate incident reporters to the Mental Health System Expansion Initiative.
4. Implement Educational Programs for Youth to Address the Problem of Hate.

Conclusion: Regardless of how the data is measured, recorded, and reported across the various jurisdictions, there is consensus that the numbers of hate crimes and hate

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incidents have gone up. Clearly, many of our family, friends, and neighbors feel threatened by hate, hate incidents, and hate crimes. The CCHR stands ready to oppose hate.

Introduction

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) is the City’s civil rights agency. Our enabling ordinance states that “...prejudice and the practice of discrimination... menace peace and public welfare.”³ Accordingly, CCHR’s role is to, “promote peace and good order...among various segments of society.”⁴

To accomplish our mission, CCHR enforces the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance.⁵ We engage in outreach to raise awareness about the City’s anti-discrimination laws, so that Chicagoans know that they can file a claim with us at no cost and seek justice. We provide educational workshops that empower attendees to resolve conflicts on their own. We also provide free mediation services to resolve community tensions. Lastly, we address hate crimes and hate incidents,⁶ and these are the focus of this report. Our purpose with all of this is to improve human relations in Chicago.

CCHR issues this report in compliance with Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, which was amended in December of 2023.⁷ This section was formerly the City’s Hate Crimes Ordinance and is now the City’s Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance. The amended ordinance directs CCHR to compile this report and lists specific, comprehensive information about hate crimes and hate incidents. It also requires the report to be delivered annually by July 1, presented to the City Council Joint Committee on Public Safety and Health and Human Relations, and to be made public.⁸

³ Section 2-120-480 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

Chicago: Birthplace of the Human Relations Movement

Human relations commissions are “created to help manage intergroup relationships...and improve a community's prospects for harmony and prosperity.”⁹ The human relations movement started in Chicago in 1919 when a mob of White people murdered an African American seventeen-year-old named Eugene Williams for floating across an invisible boundary at an unofficially segregated beach.¹⁰ The mob stoned young Eugene until he drowned.¹¹ This was a “hate crime” long before the term was coined.¹²

Despite many witnesses, police refused to make an arrest. That injustice ignited racial tensions. Riots ensued and hundreds were injured. The violence spread for days.

When tempers finally quelled, 15 White people and 23 African Americans lay dead. A thousand African American families had lost their homes to arson. Because of this event, the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, the first of its kind and a precursor to CCHR, was created to study intergroup relations. The hope was to prevent similar tragedies and breakdowns of the social order from reoccurring.¹³

Today, Chicago faces another inflection point. COVID-19’s assault on public health and the economy worsened systemic inequities. A police officer’s murder of George Floyd sparked unrest, protests, and calls for a reckoning of America’s history of racial injustice. A fractured immigration system continues to deliver waves of new arrivals seeking and finding sanctuary, but also encountering tensions in many neighborhoods. As of this

⁹ *Human Relations Commissions: Relieving Racial Tensions in the American City*, Brian Calfano and Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Columbia University Press (2022).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² <https://counseling.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/self-help/vidette-hate-crimes.pdf>

¹³ *Supra* note 9.

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writing, the Israel-Hamas war¹⁴ continues, and this too has raised tensions here at home. Meanwhile, reported hate crimes in Chicago have reached historic levels.¹⁵

Chicago, “The City that Works,” must meet these challenges. CCHR remains steadfast and integral to the City’s efforts to advance peace. We will collaborate with the Office of the Mayor, the City Council, the Chicago Department of Police (CPD), other agencies, community-based partners, and all interested stakeholders to help build a better, safer, stronger Chicago...free from hate. This report outlines those collaborative efforts.



¹⁴ *Supra* note 2.

¹⁵<https://chicago.suntimes.com/metro-state/2023/8/30/23853206/report-chicago-hate-crimes-2022-highest-since-1994>

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents

CCHR works with CPD to address hate crimes and hate incidents reported to have occurred within the City of Chicago. CPD handles all law enforcement aspects, and CCHR tends to the civilian needs of victims, their families, and targeted communities.

When a hate crime is reported to CPD, the associated file is referred to CPD's Civil Rights Unit which oversees the investigation. Once the Civil Rights Unit produces an initial report, that report is forwarded to CCHR.

Our Hate Crime Victim Advocate then contacts the victim to see if they have any needs beyond those that are being handled by CPD. This may entail helping them to track the case through the criminal justice system, accompanying them to court dates or meetings with detectives working on their case, providing referrals for other City or non-profit services, or simply sharing a friendly face and sympathetic ear. The latter is the human touch victims of hate crimes appreciate more than words can express.

What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is a criminal act that targets a person or group of people because of their actual or perceived identity.

In this context, "hate" does not mean rage, anger, or even dislike. It means bias against people or groups with characteristics that are set forth by law.

In Chicago, Illinois, state and local hate crime laws combine to protect people who are targeted for characteristics such as race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation,

gender identity, national origin, ancestry, immigration or citizenship status, or physical or mental disability.¹⁶

Hate crime laws provide for enhanced penalties over and above those for similar crimes which are not motivated by hate.¹⁷ This is because the harmful impact of hate crimes extends further than other crimes.¹⁸ They not only hurt the individual victims, but they also threaten others in the same protected class. According to Richard Cohen, Executive Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, “hate crimes have the unique ability to send shock waves through communities...[a] hate crime is a terroristic act because it puts others who are similarly situated in fear.”¹⁹

Regulating hate must be done with careful consideration of the First Amendment, but the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld enhanced penalties for hate crimes.²⁰

What is a Hate Incident?

In December 2023, the City Council amended the City’s hate crimes ordinance.²¹ The amendments added a new term to the ordinance: “hate incidents.”²²

The amended ordinance defines hate incidents as “any action that: (A) targets an individual or group based on their actual or perceived race, color, sex, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation; (B) consists of clear and intentional acts of bias, prejudice or hostility, including but not limited to offensive

¹⁶ Section 8-4-085 of the Municipal Code of Chicago and 720 ILCS 5/12-7.1.

¹⁷ <https://www.adl.org/resources/news/hate-crime-laws-punishment-fit-crime>

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/06/19/when-is-a-crime-a-hate-crime>

²⁰ *Wisconsin v. Mitchell* (92-515), 508 U.S. 47 (1993).

²¹ <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2023/12/8/23994211/chicago-hate-crime-reporting-311-debra-silverstein>

²² *Supra* note 6.

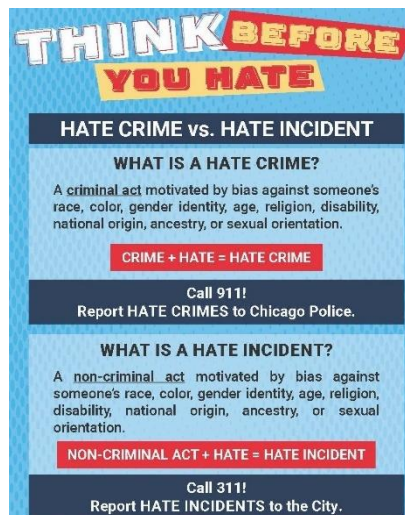
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language, symbols, or threats, that place the targeted individual or group in reasonable apprehension of a hate crime; and (C) is not classified as a criminal offense or as a violation of” the Municipal Code of Chicago.²³

Hate incidents are any non-criminal act that targets a person or group from a protected class.

The amended ordinance added the ability to report hate incidents to 311. It also specified the inclusion of hateful graffiti and expanded reporting requirements for CPD and CCHR.²⁴

According to the amendment’s sponsor, Ald. Debra Silverstein (50th Ward) the reason for adding hate incidents to the City’s Hate Crimes Ordinance is that hate incidents are often “a precursor” to hate crimes.²⁵ By tracking and monitoring hate incidents, the City can better understand “what’s happening and try to get things under control before it turns into a crime.”²⁶



²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2023/9/12/23870416/chicago-hate-crime-ordinance-rewrite-proposed-city-council-silverstein-antisemitism>

²⁶ *Id.*

A Cautionary Note on Data

While the amended ordinance requires the gathering and publication of hate crimes and hate incidents data, it is important to note that it is difficult to compile accurate hate crime statistics.²⁷ For example, under federal law, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) is required to tabulate both state and federal crimes that “manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, gender or gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.”²⁸ For more than thirty years, the FBI has published an annual report providing a comprehensive national snapshot of hate violence in the U.S.²⁹ To achieve this, the FBI relies on its own records regarding federal hate crimes violations, in addition to data reported by local law enforcement agencies.³⁰

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the annual FBI report is “based on flawed and inconsistent data.”³¹

At the federal level, the Matthew Shepard And James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, U.S. Code Title 18 Section 249, prohibits willfully causing bodily injury to anyone because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person.³² A separate provision of the statute imposes penalties for the same conduct if it is committed under certain specified circumstances and motivated by the actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person.³³

²⁷ <https://www.propublica.org/article/why-america-fails-at-gathering-hate-crime-statistics>

²⁸ <https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/crime/hate-crime>

²⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ <https://www.splcenter.org/hopewatch/2024/04/24/new-legislation-opportunity-hate-crime-data>

³² <https://www.justia.com/criminal/hate-crime-laws-50-state-survey/>

³³ *Id.*

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Most states have hate crime statutes that include crimes committed on the basis of race, color, and religion.³⁴ Many, but not all, also include crimes committed on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability.³⁵ The FBI relies on local law enforcement to collect and submit hate crimes data but cannot compel them to do so.³⁶

While the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) provides a Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual,³⁷ many localities define hate crimes and collect data in their own manner in practice.³⁸ Many do not bother to report such data or even to collect it.³⁹ Sometimes there is a breakdown when states and localities want to submit data to the FBI.⁴⁰

For example, in 2022, the FBI released its annual compilation of hate crimes statistics, summarizing all hate crimes reported to the FBI in 2021. That year was the first year the FBI required all law enforcement agencies to report all crime, including hate crimes, through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), ostensibly a more accurate, detailed way of reporting crimes than the previous system, which was known as the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program and dated back to the 1920s.⁴¹

Many jurisdictions were unable to complete the switch to the new system on time, which resulted in inaccurate reporting.⁴² Only 11,834 of the over 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide took part in hate crime data collection, a 22% decrease from the

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Supra* note 27.

³⁷ <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/resource/hate-crime-data-collection-guidelines-and-training-manual-version-30>

³⁸ *Supra* note 27.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2011/resources/a-guide-to-understanding-nibrs>

⁴² <https://rac.org/blog/hate-crimes-2021-incomplete-picture>

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previous year, the lowest number of agencies in two decades.⁴³ This made statistical comparisons between 2021 and previous years almost pointless.

Chicago, like most large jurisdictions, including New York City and Los Angeles, lacked the technical capacity to adopt and scale up to the complex new system by the deadline of January 1, 2021.⁴⁴ Nevertheless, in 2022, Chicago became the largest municipality in the nation to transition to the new system and report all relevant data.⁴⁵

Another problem that undermines accurate hate crime data collection is that victims and witnesses tend to underreport hate crimes.⁴⁶ According to the DOJ's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), annually, on average, approximately 250,000 Americans are victims of a hate crime.⁴⁷ Yet, the numbers of hate crimes reported to the FBI in recent years have averaged between 10,000 to 12,000.⁴⁸

The reasons for this disparity are complex. Sometimes people do not understand what a hate crime is, so they do not recognize it when they experience it.⁴⁹ Other times, they fear retaliation for reporting.⁵⁰ Sometimes, people do not trust the police or do not believe prosecutors and the criminal justice system will succeed in providing them justice.⁵¹

According to the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes, data on hate crimes “do not draw an accurate picture of the problem of hate in Illinois or in the country.

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ <https://news.wttw.com/2023/07/31/police-departments-are-gradually-adopting-more-detailed-program-report-nationwide-crime>

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ <https://www.newsnationnow.com/world/war-in-israel/underreporting-hate-crimes/>

⁴⁷ https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/hcv0519_sum_3.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://www.justice.gov/crs/highlights/2022-hate-crime-statistics>

⁴⁹ *Supra* note 44.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Id.*

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Many victims do not report incidents. When victims do report, law enforcement officers may or may not record or investigate those incidents as hate crimes.”⁵²

At CCHR, we work in conjunction with CPD and consider ourselves partners in addressing hate crimes. We rely on CPD to notify us of the hate crimes and hate incidents reported to them. To that end, CCHR numbers reflect CPD numbers.

⁵² <https://cdhc.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/cdhc/documents/cdhc-2023-annual-report.pdf>

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Total Numbers

The public has access to CPD’s hate crimes statistics in real time, via the CPD Hate Crime Dashboard.⁵³ Prior to the 2023 amendment, CPD tracked what it deemed non-violent hate incidents. The tally of these incidents was at times hard to calculate as there was no formal category or tracking mechanism. The 2023 amendment specifically addressed this issue by including the term “hate incident” together with its own reporting mechanism through 311.⁵⁴

Hate crimes may be reported by calling 911 or visiting a CPD district. Hate incidents may be reported by calling 311, downloading the 311 app to your phone, or by visiting 311.chicago.gov on a computer. Due to the legal need for a complainant, hate crimes may not be reported anonymously. Unlike hate crimes, hate incidents may be reported anonymously. However, if a victim requests specific follow-up services, they must include contact information; the report cannot be anonymous.

Below are the total number of hate crimes reported to the Chicago Police Department for all of 2023, plus, the total number of hate crimes reported for 2024, year-to-date, as of June 13, 2024.⁵⁵ The numbers and the terms used were extracted from the CPD Hate Crimes Dashboard on that date. As required by the amended ordinance, the data is categorized according to community area, bias motivation, type of incident and disposition:

⁵³ <https://home.chicagopolice.org/statistics-data/data-dashboards/hate-crime-dashboard/>

⁵⁴ *Supra* note 4.

⁵⁵ *Supra* note 53.

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Hate Crimes Data for All of 2023 and for January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024

Total Hate Crimes by Year

2023	2024 (Year-to-Date) ⁵⁶
303	124

Hate Crimes by Bias Motivation

Bias Motivation	2023	2024
Sexual Orientation	61	28
Religion	81	55
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	170	40
Disability	3	1
Gender Identity	11	5
Total	326	129

Hate Crimes by Bias Groups

	2023	2024
Anti-Jewish	50	50
Anti-Black	76	19
Anti-Gay (M)	36	18
Anti-Homosexual	19	9
Anti-Hispanic/Latino	28	7
Anti-Transgender	11	5
Anti-Other Race	17	2
Anti-Islamic/Muslim	16	3
Anti-Arab	5	2
Anti-Asian	11	4
Anti-Hindu	1	1
Anti-White	16	0
Anti-Multiple Religions/Groups	7	2
Anti-Lesbian	6	1
Anti-American Indian Alaskan Native	4	0
Anti-Other Religion	3	2
Anti-Mental Disability	2	1
Anti-Catholic	1	0
Anti-Eastern Orthodox	1	0

⁵⁶ The 2024 hate crimes data was extracted from the CPD Hate Crimes Dashboard as of June 13, 2024.

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Type of Hate Crimes

	2023	2024
Arson	1	1
By Fire	1	1
Assault	87	24
Simple	66	20
Aggravated		
By Handgun	8	1
Other Dangerous Weapon	9	1
By Knife	3	0
Police Officer	1	0
Protected Employee		
Hands/Fists/Feet	0	2
Battery	69	17
Simple	52	11
Aggravated		
By Knife	3	2
By Handgun	1	1
Hands/Fists/Feet	2	1
Other Dangerous Weapon	9	2
Of a Senior Citizen	1	0
Of a Child	1	0
Criminal Damage	40	37
Criminal Defacement	17	20
To Property	12	10
To Vehicle	5	5
Institutional Vandalism	3	2
To State Supported Property	2	0
To City of Chicago Supported Property	1	0
Criminal Trespass	1	0
To Land	1	0
Intimidation	7	2
	7	2
Other Offense	54	18
Telephone threat	15	8
Harassment By Electronic Means	24	6
Harassment By Telephone	6	3

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Other Crime Against Person	9	1
Public Peace Violation	6	1
Bomb threat	3	1
Mob Action	2	0
Reckless Conduct	1	0
Robbery	1	0
Attempted Strong Arm No Weapon	1	0
Sex Offense	1	0
Attempted Criminal Sexual Abuse	1	0
Theft	5	0
\$500 and Under	5	0
Traffic Crash	1	0
Minor Personal Injury Crash	1	0
Weapons Violation	1	0
Reckless Firearm Discharge	1	0
Non-Criminal	20	20
Non-Criminal Person	15	12
Non-Criminal Property	4	8
Found Property	1	

Hate Crimes by Community Area

	2023	2024
West Ridge	12	13
North Park	1	1
Edgewater	12	5
Uptown	9	7
Lake View	16	8
Irving Park	11	1
Portage Park	13	1
Hermosa	3	1
Austin	4	2
Near North Side	22	5
Near South Side	0	2
New City	1	1
Hyde Park	1	1
Englewood	1	1
West Elsdon	0	1

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Chatham	4	3
Mount Greenwood	0	1
Riverdale	1	1
Rogers Park	19	11
Forest Glen	2	0
Ohare	4	2
Albany Park	4	1
Dunning	4	1
West Town	1	6
Lincoln Park	10	7
Loop	27	5
West Garfield Park	1	0
North Lawndale	3	2
Armour Square	4	1
Bridgeport	4	0
Fuller Park	2	0
West Englewood	3	0
Chicago Lawn	5	0
Clearing	2	1
Greater Grand Crossing	4	0
South Shore	6	2
Roseland	1	0
Pulman	1	0
Washington Heights	3	0

Total Non-Criminal Hate Incidents by Year

2023	2024
24	20

Dispositions of Hate Crimes

	2023	2024
Bona Fide	290	123
Undetermined	10	1
Unfounded	15	0

Below are the total number of hate incidents reported to 311 for 2024, year-to-date, as of June 13, 2024. The numbers and the terms used were extracted from 311 on that date.

This is the first year that such data is being collected, pursuant to the amended ordinance.

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As required by the amended ordinance, the data is categorized according to community area, bias motivation, type of incident and disposition.

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Hate Incidents Data for January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024

(This is the first year that hate incidents data is being recorded, pursuant to the Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance).

Total Hate Incidents by Year 2024 (Year-to-Date)

17

Hate Incidents by Bias Motivation⁵⁷

Bias Motivation	2024
Sexual Orientation	5
Religion	6
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	6
Disability	2
Gender Identity	4
Undisclosed	1
Total	24

Hate Incidents by Bias Groups 2024

Anti-Jewish	5
Anti-Black	1
Anti-Gay (M)	1
Anti-Homosexual	0
Anti-Hispanic/Latino	0
Anti-Transgender	1
Anti-Other Race	0
Anti-Islamic/Muslim	0
Anti-Arab	1
Anti-Asian	0
Anti-Hindu	0
Anti-White	0
Anti-Multiple Religions/Groups	0
Anti-Lesbian	0
Anti-American Indian Alaskan Native	0
Anti-Other Religion	0
Anti-Mental Disability	0
Anti-Catholic	0
Anti-Eastern Orthodox	0
Undisclosed	8

⁵⁷ The number of Hate Incidents by Bias Motivation is greater than the total number of Hate Incidents by Year because some of the hate incidents reports indicated more than one bias motivation within the same incident. For example, one report identified both race and religion as motivating factors for the hate incident, another report identified gender identity and sexual orientation as motivating factors for the hate incident, and a third report identified gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability as motivating factors for the hate incident.

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Type of Hate Incidents⁵⁸

		2024
Defamation		1
	Printed material	1
Offensive Communication		12
	Electronic Means	2
	Other	1
	Printed material	6
	Verbal	3
Undetermined		4

Hate Incidents by Community Area

		2024
Avondale		0
Douglas		0
East Side		0
Englewood		0
Garfield Ridge		0
Humboldt Park		1
Irving Park		0
Lake view		2
Lincoln Park		1
Logan square		1
Loop		1
Montclare		1
Near North Side		2
Near West Side		0
North Center		0
North Park		1
Portage Park		0
Rogers Park		0

⁵⁸ The Type of Hate Incidents categories will be different from the Type of Hate Crimes categories. This is because ‘crime’ is a term of art in the law, so all crimes are named and defined either by state statute or city ordinance. The concept of ‘incidents’ is not a term of art, so there is no closed universe of types of incidents that may occur.

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South Chicago	1
South Shore	1
West Ridge	4
West Town	1

Dispositions of Hate Incidents⁵⁹

	2024
Total Reported	114
Bona Fide	17
Undetermined	14
Unfounded	83

⁵⁹ For Dispositions of Hate Incidents this report utilizes the three categories of dispositions utilized by the CPD Hate Crimes Dashboard (Bona Fide, Undetermined, and Unfounded). CPD makes those determinations with regard to hate crimes and the numbers presented here reflect CPD’s assessment of each reported hate crime. The hate incidents data referenced here comes from the 311 dashboard, which does not provide information regarding the dispositions. CCHR reviewed the facts alleged in each reported hate incident and categorized each accordingly.

The Big Picture: Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Overview

The amended ordinance requires CCHR to provide “an overview of hate crimes and hate incidents from local, regional, and national perspectives.”⁶⁰ What follows is a comprehensive overview. However, the lack of uniform data collection and reporting methods across jurisdictions makes cross-referencing difficult, if not impractical. Nevertheless, what follows will create a picture that hate crimes and hate incidents, no matter how these are defined and measured, appear to have increased across the country.

Hate Crimes: A National, Regional, and Local Problem

Hate crimes impact every community in America. They are a national, regional, and local problem that is trending in the wrong direction. A cursory glance at takeaways from the FBI’s 2022 hate crimes report illustrates the severity of the problem. That year saw:

The **highest** number of reported race-based crimes ever (6,570).⁶¹

The **highest** number of crimes against African Americans since 2000 (3,424).⁶²

The **highest** number of anti-Latine crimes ever (738).⁶³

The **second-highest** number of anti- Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander crimes (525).⁶⁴

The **highest** number of crimes motivated by the victim’s sexual orientation (1,947).

⁶⁰ *Supra* note 6.

⁶¹ *Supra* note 31.

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ *Id.*

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The **highest** number targeted because of their gender identity (469).

The **highest** number targeted because of their religion (2,014).⁶⁵

The **highest** number of antisemitic crimes since 1993 (1,124).

A **growing** number of anti-Muslim crimes (158).⁶⁶

That same year, 2022, CCHR Commissioner Nancy Andrade testified at a City Council budget hearing that, year-to-date in Chicago, there had been a 71% increase in hate crimes reported to CCHR compared to the same period the previous year.⁶⁷ At that point, CPD had forwarded CCHR reports for 77 hate crimes, compared to 45 for the same period during the previous year.⁶⁸

At the time, in Chicago, Jewish people were the most frequent targets of hate crimes (18), followed by African Americans (16), members of the White community, (12), members of the LGBTQ+ community (8), Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders (5), biracial people (5), members of the Arab community (3), and a Catholic (1).⁶⁹

Since 2022, violent crime in Chicago has been on a downward trend.⁷⁰

Nevertheless, data shows that hate crimes have continued their trend upward.⁷¹

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2022/10/20/23415326/hate-crime-reports-chicago-commission-human-relations-immigrants>

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ <https://news.wttw.com/2024/02/02/shootings-homicides-chicago-both-down-least-25-start-2024-according-police>

⁷¹ *Supra* note 15.

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According to a 2023 report issued by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, in 2022, Chicago recorded its highest number of hate crimes in nearly three decades.⁷² While the study's authors acknowledge that the study used different parameters than CPD uses when deciding what incidents to include in its hate crime statistics, they both show an upward trend.⁷³

According to CPD's Hate Crimes Dashboard CPD received reports of 109 hate crimes in 2021.⁷⁴ In 2022, CPD received reports of 204 hate crimes, a nearly 100% increase over the previous year.⁷⁵ In 2023, they received reports of 304 hate crimes,⁷⁶ another significant increase.

During the 2022 budget hearing, some Alderpersons expressed concern that the rising tide of political partisanship and the 2024 presidential election would further fuel an increase in tension and hate crimes.⁷⁷ Commissioner Andrade pledged to partner with the City Council to build "something stronger with more visibility to address this."⁷⁸ To that end, the section below titled *Chicago Responds: An Overview of CCHR Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Activities* will highlight some of the work that CCHR has done in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor, the City Council, and other partners to address hate crimes and hate incidents in Chicago.

⁷² *Id.*

⁷³ Comparison of California State University study versus CPD Dashboard.

⁷⁴ *Supra* note 53.

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ *Supra* note 66.

⁷⁸ *Id.*

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A deep dive will better illustrate the problem on a national, regional, and local scale. For example, according to the FBI, anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes jumped more than 19% nationally in 2022 compared to 2021.⁷⁹ The Human Rights Campaign declared a state of emergency for LGBTQ+ Americans and issued a report describing the community as “under attack.”⁸⁰

Many consider Illinois to be a safe haven for the LGBTQ+ community, and, generally speaking, it is.⁸¹ Nevertheless, in Illinois, in 2022, hate crimes against members of the LGBTQ+ community saw the biggest year-to-year jump both in percentage and sheer numbers.⁸² In 2022, in Illinois there were 66 hate crimes based on sexual orientation, eight based on gender identity and 64 based on religion.⁸³ The year before, there had been 29 for orientation, two for gender identity, and 22 for religion.⁸⁴

Nationally, hate crimes against African American have gone up by much smaller percentages than other groups in recent years.⁸⁵ Still, African Americans remain by far the largest category of victims, making up nearly one-third of reported incidents nationwide.⁸⁶ In one poll, more than half of African American respondents reported fear of becoming the victim of a hate crime.⁸⁷ In 2022, hate crimes against African American Chicagoans went up by 50%.⁸⁸

⁷⁹ <https://thehill.com/homenews/lgbtq/4259292-fbi-crime-statistics-show-anti-lgbtq-hate-crimes-on-the-rise/>

⁸⁰ <https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Anti-LGBTQ-Legislation-Impact-Report.pdf>

⁸¹ <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2024/04/rep-kelly-cassidy-helped-make-illinois-a-haven-for-lgbtq-rights-says-the-impact-is-beyond-words/>

⁸² <https://illinoiseagle.com/2023/10/18/hate-crimes-rose-in-illinois-nationally-last-year/>

⁸³ *Id.*

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/03/25/asian-hate-crime-fbi-black-lgbtq>

⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2023/03/15/economy-gun-violence-black-voters/11417786002/>

⁸⁸ <https://news.wttw.com/2022/11/05/hate-crimes-against-black-chicagoans-50-year-city-agency-finds>

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Latines have also experienced a “significant increase” in hate crimes in recent years.⁸⁹ In 2021 alone, they saw a 41% increase nationally.⁹⁰ Brian Levin, the founding director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, which conducted a study cited earlier in this report, stated that one of the reasons for the increase is that, “different groups of people in the United States [are] getting involved in conspiracy theories, sometimes anti-Muslim, sometimes anti-African American, and sometimes anti-Latino.”⁹¹ These, “stigmatize minorities and promote hatred of ethnically diverse communities, such as Hispanics.”⁹²

Rachel Carroll Rivas, deputy director of research at the Southern Poverty Law Center concurred, adding, “We have seen a real increase in hate crimes directed against Jews, Black people, and people who identify as Hispanic or Latino. And this impact is being felt directly by people.”⁹³

One of the forces driving hate crimes against the Latine community is anti-immigrant rhetoric.⁹⁴ Politicians’ use of bigoted language around immigration and border policy plays a role in driving hate crimes.⁹⁵ As Rivas noted, “anti-immigrant groups...have taken power in many political spheres, and they also repeat false and racist conspiracies that create a culture where hate crimes thrive.”⁹⁶

⁸⁹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/hate-crimes-latinos-see-significant-increase-rcna123211>

⁹⁰ *Id.*

⁹¹ *Id.*

⁹² *Id.*

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ *Id.*

⁹⁵ *Id.*

⁹⁶ *Id.*

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As with other groups, the numbers of hate crimes and incidents against the Latine community are almost certainly higher than what official records show.⁹⁷ In the case of Latines this may be because police departments do not uniformly track racial and ethnic information.⁹⁸ Another factor is that studies have shown that some Latines are less likely to report crimes due to distrust in law enforcement or concerns about immigration status.⁹⁹

During the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community also saw a sharp increase in hate crimes and hate incidents.¹⁰⁰ Between 2020 and 2021, hate crimes against this community nationally rose an astonishing 224%.¹⁰¹ In a survey administered in late 2021, one in five members of the AANHPI community nationally reported experiencing a hate act in the past year.¹⁰² This was due, in large part, to the misattribution of the coronavirus to their community.¹⁰³

Again, the numbers of hate crimes against the AANHPI community are almost certainly underreported.¹⁰⁴ According to Chris Javier, a deacon at Chinese Christian Union Church in Chicago's Chinatown, "people in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community may feel hesitant to call 911 or report crimes in other ways [because of]

⁹⁷ *Id.*

⁹⁸ <https://www.axios.com/2023/08/31/hate-crimes-latino-los-angeles-chicago>

⁹⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/anti-asian-hate>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.csusb.edu/hate-and-extremism-center>

¹⁰² <https://stopaapihate.org/2021/11/18/national-report-through-september-2021/>

¹⁰³ <https://www.wbez.org/race-class-communities/2020/03/31/asian-americans-in-chicago-feel-the-bite-of-prejudice-during-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2022/06/06/theres-pain-in-the-community-data-shows-increase-in-anti-asian-hate-crimes-nationwide-but-some-worry-chicagos-low-numbers-stem-from-lack-of-reporting/>

thinking they won't be helped, feeling afraid of retribution or seeing language as a barrier."¹⁰⁵

The DOJ suggests that police and local governments conduct outreach in different languages to raise awareness and inform communities about resources for victims of hate crimes.¹⁰⁶

Native Americans do not report a high number of hate crimes.¹⁰⁷ That does not mean that they do not occur. As with other groups, it is believed that hate crimes against Native Americans go underreported.¹⁰⁸ According to Barbra Perry, a global hate crime expert and author of *Silent Victims: Hate Crimes Against Native Americans*, the true numbers are higher than reported.¹⁰⁹ The reasons Native Americans do not report hate crimes, she says, include, "a sense that they won't be taken seriously," and fear of retaliation.¹¹⁰

When hate crimes occur against Native Americans they do not often make headlines, which some argue is, "part of a pattern of discrimination and violence dating back generations."¹¹¹ According to Charles Abourezk, an indigenous rights activist and Chief Justice of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Supreme Court, discrimination against Native Americans is widespread.¹¹² He says Native American communities have been,

¹⁰⁵ *Id.*

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/file/1223831>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.voanews.com/a/rise-in-hate-crimes-alarms-native-american-communities/3887303.html>

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*

¹⁰⁹ *Id.*

¹¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹¹ *Id.*

¹¹² *Id.*

“increasingly susceptible to the same kind of growing backlash or regression in terms of race politics [seen]...in the rest of the country.”¹¹³

According to a 2023 report by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), *Hate in the Prairie State*, racist propaganda campaigns and antisemitic acts more than doubled in Illinois in 2022, tracking a national trend.¹¹⁴ The report details examples of extremism across the state and provides a comprehensive list of radical forces targeting Illinois, including White supremacist groups, anti-LGBTQ+ zealots, and QAnon conspiracy theorists.¹¹⁵

White supremacist propaganda campaigns rose by 111%.¹¹⁶ Antisemitic acts including assault, harassment and vandalism rose to their highest level in recent history in 2022, jumping 128% from the previous year, from 53 to 121.¹¹⁷ And attacks on abortion providers were carried out after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision.¹¹⁸

The ADL report was issued before the start of the Israel-Hamas war.¹¹⁹ Antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes and hate incidents only increased stateside following the outbreak of those hostilities.¹²⁰ Tensions around the conflict have impacted communities

¹¹³ *Id.*

¹¹⁴ <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/hate-prairie-state-extremism-antisemitism-illinois>

¹¹⁵ *Id.*

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

¹¹⁷ *Id.*

¹¹⁸ *Id.*

¹¹⁹ *Supra* note 2.

¹²⁰ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/29/us/hate-crimes-antisemitism-anti-muslim-dg/index.html> and <https://www.voanews.com/a/antisemitism-islamophobia-surge-in-2023-watchdogs-say/7407451.html>

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across the country, leading to protests in our streets,¹²¹ and on college campuses.¹²² They have even impacted City Council proceedings and the work of CCHR.¹²³

According to a 2024 report by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), *Fatal: The Resurgence of Anti-Muslim Hate*, the organization received 8,061 complaints of hate crimes or hate incidents nationwide in 2023, the highest number of complaints they have recorded in their 30-year history.¹²⁴ Nearly half of all complaints CAIR received were reported in the final three months of the year, after the start of the war.¹²⁵

The ADL's annual report, released in 2024, is consistent with CAIR's findings.¹²⁶ Last year there was "an increase of dozens of percentage points in the number of antisemitic incidents in Western countries in comparison to 2022. A particularly steep increase was recorded following the October 7 attacks."¹²⁷

Perhaps no incident better illustrates how these terrible global conflicts can result in hate crimes and lethal repercussions right here at home than the tragic murder of Wadea Al-Fayoume, a six-year-old Palestinian-American boy who was stabbed to death by his family's landlord.¹²⁸ According to his mother, who was also attacked, the landlord yelled "...you Muslims must die!" before attempting to choke and stab her.¹²⁹ After she attempted

¹²¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/pro-palestinian-march-chicago-loop/>

¹²² <https://www.axios.com/local/chicago/2024/05/08/chicago-universities-response-protests>

¹²³ <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chaos-erupts-at-chicago-city-hall-as-aldermen-back-resolution-declaring-solidarity-with-israel/> and <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2024/1/31/24057161/mayor-brandon-johnson-gaza-ceasefire-resolution-raucous-debate-clears-chambers>

¹²⁴ https://ca.cair.com/losangeles/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2024/04/2024_Fatal_The_Resurgence_of_Anti-Muslim_Hate-11.pdf

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/tel-aviv-university-and-anti-defamation-league-publish-annual-report>

¹²⁷ *Id.*

¹²⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/18/us/wadea-al-fayoume-death-wednesday/index.html>

¹²⁹ *Supra* note 123.

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to call for law enforcement, she found that the landlord had killed her son.¹³⁰ The landlord has been indicted by a grand jury on first-degree murder, attempted murder, battery, and hate crime charges.¹³¹ The DOJ has also opened a hate crimes probe into the killing.¹³²

¹³⁰ *Id.*

¹³¹ *Id.*

¹³² <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/16/plainfield-illinois-murder-muslim-hate-crime>

Standing Up to Hate: National, Regional, and Local Responses

In recent years, federal, state, and local governments have stepped up their efforts to address the rising tide of hate crimes and hate incidents.

On the national level, the federal government runs the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program.¹³³ Via this program, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance provides grants to support the hate crimes work conducted by state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and prosecution agencies and their partners.¹³⁴ The grants fund outreach, education, improved victim reporting tools, and investigations and prosecutions of hate crimes.¹³⁵ As noted later in this report, the State of Illinois, Cook County, plus CPD and CCHR have all received grants to assist with hate crimes and hate incidents work.

As stated above in the section on data, the FBI has published an annual report for over 30 years, providing the most important and comprehensive national snapshot of hate violence in the U.S.¹³⁶ Again, experts agree these reports have been based on flawed and inconsistent data.¹³⁷ Without accurate data, it is impossible to effectively address our nation's hate crime problem.¹³⁸

A bipartisan bill introduced in Congress this year aims to improve the FBI's collection of this data.¹³⁹ The Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act (H.R. 7648) would require state and local law enforcement to report accurate data to the FBI, and to engage in

¹³³ <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2024-172097>

¹³⁴ *Id.*

¹³⁵ *Id.*

¹³⁶ *Supra* note 29.

¹³⁷ *Supra* note 31.

¹³⁸ *Id.*

¹³⁹ *Supra* note 31.

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meaningful hate crime prevention, outreach, and awareness initiatives.¹⁴⁰ As an incentive, it would condition federal funding to said agencies based on compliance with heightened reporting standards.¹⁴¹ If this bill becomes law, it could improve hate crime reporting nationwide, providing better data to understand – and combat – the problem.¹⁴²

In 2021, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker stated, “As the state most representative of our nation, Illinois is also home to the hate that plagues our nation - and in turn, [we have] an opportunity to lead the way in building a welcoming, inclusive state that all our residents can be proud to call home.”¹⁴³

In response to the onslaught of hate, Governor Pritzker re-established the **Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes** (ICDHC) after more than a decade of dormancy.¹⁴⁴ Housed within the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), the ICDHC’s mission is “to identify and uproot sources of discrimination and bias at the source, while assisting with the development of resources, training, and information that allow for a swift and efficient response to hate-motivated crimes and incidents.”¹⁴⁵

In March 2024, ICDHC soft-launched **Illinois v Hate**, a non-emergency hate incident reporting helpline and online portal “to support individuals and communities affected by hate.”¹⁴⁶ Illinois v Hate is not a crisis line and is not affiliated with or connected to law enforcement.¹⁴⁷ For emergencies, the public is urged to dial 911.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁰ *Id.*

¹⁴¹ *Id.*

¹⁴² *Id.*

¹⁴³ <https://gov.illinois.gov/newsroom/press-release.24721.html>

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*

¹⁴⁵ <https://cdhc.illinois.gov/>

¹⁴⁶ <https://cdhc.illinois.gov/report-hate.html>

¹⁴⁷ *Id.*

¹⁴⁸ *Id.*

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However, for non-emergencies, the public is encouraged to call (877) 458-4283, or 877 IL V HATE, Monday-Friday, 12 PM to 9 PM. They can also access the online portal, 24/7, at <https://cdhc.illinois.gov/report-hate/report-form.html#ilvh>.¹⁴⁹

Funded by a DOJ Matthew Shepherd/James Byrd, Jr. grant, the helpline is a safe, confidential service. According to ICDHC, it will “provide essential tools, support, and referrals for victims of hate crimes.”¹⁵⁰

Illinois also responded to hate by adopting measures aimed at safeguarding the rights of LGBTQ+ people, even as other states moved to restrict the community. Just before the pandemic, Illinois adopted the **Inclusive Curriculum Law (Public Act 101-0227)**, a measure which requires Illinois schools to include the positive contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in their history curriculum.¹⁵¹

More recently, the state adopted additional laws to protect the LGBTQ+ community.¹⁵² One new law will update language in existing acts to be more gender inclusive in order to affirm LGBTQ+ youth in foster care.¹⁵³ Another will make it easier for LGBTQ+ couples to marry.¹⁵⁴ A third allows multi-occupancy, gender-neutral restrooms to be installed in private and public Illinois businesses.¹⁵⁵ While the State previously allowed single-occupancy restrooms for any gender, the law now allows businesses to designate multi-occupancy gender-neutral restrooms.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁹ *Id.*

¹⁵⁰ *Id.*

¹⁵¹ <https://will.illinois.edu/news/story/pritzker-signs-bill-requiring-illinois-schools-teach-lgbt-history>

¹⁵² <https://apnews.com/article/illinois-lgbtq-laws-pronouns-gay-rights-79c885b9f57769412b3c993c8a5a90e6>

¹⁵³ *Id.*

¹⁵⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵⁵ *Id.*

¹⁵⁶ *Id.*

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Illinois responded to the rise in hate crimes against the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community by adopting **the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH) Act (Public Act 102-0044)**.¹⁵⁷ With this law, Illinois became the first state in the nation to require public schools to devote a unit of curriculum to the history of AANHPI community in the United States, including in Illinois and the Midwest.¹⁵⁸ The TEAACH Act requires schools' U.S. history courses to include the role that this community has played in advancing civil rights, which will highlight their contributions to the country's development.¹⁵⁹

Last year, Gov. Pritzker also signed **Public Act 103-0422** into law, which mandates a new unit of study for Native American history in kindergarten through high school in each school district across the state.¹⁶⁰ The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) worked with stakeholder groups to develop a resource guide.¹⁶¹ These included Native American educators and scholars, advocates from the Native American Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative, as well as a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Tribal Council.¹⁶²

Professor Megan Bang, director of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at Northwestern University is a proponent of the enhanced curriculum requirements.¹⁶³ According to Professor Bang, when it comes to Native American history,

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.injusticewatch.org/archive/2021/teaach-act-anti-asian-hate/>

¹⁵⁸ *Id.*

¹⁵⁹ *Id.*

¹⁶⁰ <https://truthout.org/articles/indigenous-led-effort-changes-illinois-school-curriculum-to-cover-native-history/>

¹⁶¹ *Id.*

¹⁶² *Id.*

¹⁶³ *Id.*

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most students as early as 2nd grade get, “a storyline of how the United States came to be. And it’s either filled with stereotypes, or they start to know there was some violent stuff that happened.”¹⁶⁴ She believes it is appropriate to teach students about, “the territories they’re on, as well as sharing some of the value systems expressed in Indigenous stories.”¹⁶⁵ Professor Bang adds that there is, “beautiful knowledge and ethics in many of our communities, and I think that classrooms could and should engage young children in those things.”¹⁶⁶

The Illinois Attorney General's Office responded to the problem of hate by working with Illinois legislators to enhance hate crime laws.¹⁶⁷ Recent amendments: expanded the list of crimes that can be prosecuted as hate crimes; addressed the increasing use of technology to attack victims; ensured that victims can file civil lawsuits; allowed judges to impose significant penalties; and permitted the Attorney General to bring civil hate crime claims.¹⁶⁸

In 2022, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul launched a first-of-its-kind civil lawsuit against two Illinoisans for allegedly engaging in hate crimes.¹⁶⁹ The lawsuit alleged that two residents of Carroll County, a mother and her adult son, both members of the White community, lynched an effigy of their African American neighbor, in chains, in a tree a few feet from his property.¹⁷⁰ They also hung a Confederate flag, displayed a racial slur in

¹⁶⁴ *Id.*

¹⁶⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶⁶ *Id.*

¹⁶⁷ <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights-of-the-people/civil-rights/hate-crimes/>

¹⁶⁸ *Id.*

¹⁶⁹ <https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/attorney-general-files-first-civil-hate-crime-lawsuit-under-authority-expanded-in-2018>

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.shawlocal.com/sauk-valley/2024/05/16/ex-savanna-woman-gets-3-years-in-prison-for-harassing-witness-in-race-based-case/>

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a window facing his home, and painted swastikas on their garage, which also faced his property.¹⁷¹ They did this to intimidate him, as he was a witness against the pair in a criminal harassment case.¹⁷² Last month the mother was sentenced to three years in prison for witness intimidation.¹⁷³

In 2023, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle partnered with Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton to launch **Cook County United Against Hate (CCUAH)**, an initiative meant to, “empower everyone, everywhere, to learn to actively stand against hate.”¹⁷⁴ CCUAH is a coalition of individuals, nonprofits, faith groups, businesses, and governments united to publicly denounce racism, bigotry, and hatred of any kind through a resolution and proclamation, and by individuals signing an online pledge.¹⁷⁵

CCUAH partners aim to build awareness through education about hate crimes and the root causes of prejudice and have already hosted a series of community-based events.¹⁷⁶ They will also highlight the work of exceptional organizations and cultivate an online library of resources.¹⁷⁷

CCUAH also means to inspire conversation with a new community spirited United Against Hate symbol that highlights the need to actively reverse the impacts of discrimination and bigotry.¹⁷⁸ CCUAH means to challenge all communities to “champion

¹⁷¹ *Id.*

¹⁷² *Id.*

¹⁷³ *Id.*

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.cookcountyunitedagainsthate.com/>

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.cookcountyunitedagainsthate.com/take-the-pledge>

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.cookcountyunitedagainsthate.com/attend-an-event>

¹⁷⁷ <https://www.cookcountyunitedagainsthate.com/about>

¹⁷⁸ *Id.*

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social justice...take agency in ending discrimination and bullying, and...interrupt bullying, intolerance, and discrimination at every level, system, and institution where it exists.”¹⁷⁹

The Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office (CCSAO) has also responded to the rise in hate crimes. In 2023, it won a DOJ Matthew Shepherd/James Byrd, Jr. grant to implement the **CCSAO Against Hate: Education & Outreach Program** in Cook County, Illinois.¹⁸⁰ The purpose of the Program is to increase public awareness, identification, and reporting of hate crimes, and to increase the CCSAO’s ability to respond to hate crimes.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁹ *Id.*

¹⁸⁰ <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/awards/15pbja-23-gg-05357-hate>

¹⁸¹ *Id.*

Chicago Takes Action: An Overview of CCHR Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Activities

Hate Crime Victim Advocate Work

At the City of Chicago, the key player for CCHR's work in addressing hate crimes and hate incidents is the Hate Crime Victim Advocate. Once CCHR receives a hate crime or hate incident report from CPD, the Hate Crime Victim Advocate contacts the victims and notifies the local Alderperson.

While victim advocacy in this context does not involve legal representation, CCHR provides emotional support, victims' rights information, help in accessing resources, assistance in filling out crime victim related forms, and accompanies victims and their family members through the criminal justice proceedings. CCHR tracks the case to its conclusion and collaborates with other organizations, such as criminal justice or social service agencies, to get help or information for the victims.

A few scenarios based on case synopses illustrate the nature of this work. Names and other identifying details have been omitted.

In one case, an Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander man was assaulted on a CTA platform while waiting for the train. The man who allegedly attacked him shouted racial slurs during the beating. The victim was left injured and in need of medical attention. The perpetrator was arrested, but the victim felt traumatized, intimidated, and reluctant about pressing charges. CCHR's Hate Crime Victim Advocate accompanied the victim during meetings with CPD and the Cook County State's Attorney's

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Office, and to court dates. The victim felt secure enough to proceed and a prosecution is pending.

In another case, two women, an LGBTQ+ couple, were assaulted by alleged members of a gang who harassed them with homophobic slurs. Both were injured and traumatized. They filed a police report, and an arrest was made, but only one of the victims wanted to proceed with a prosecution. The other victim feared the alleged gang members would retaliate. CCHR's Hate Crime Victim Advocate connected them with Cook County State's Attorney resources, accompanied them to court, and even arranged for a Cook County Sheriff's Police officer to escort them into and out of the courthouse. They were able to proceed with the prosecution. Incidentally, when the CCHR Hate Crime Victim Advocate notified the local Alderperson about the case, the Alderperson flagged it for the local CPD district, and special attention was paid to the alleged gang.

In another case, an undocumented, transgender Mexican woman was attacked by alleged members of a local gang who shouted transphobic slurs. The victim sustained injuries and was traumatized. She filed a police report and the gang's alleged ringleader was arrested. Witnesses gave corroborating statements to police, but the gang allegedly threatened them, and they refused to testify. The gang also allegedly threatened the victim that if she did not drop the charges, they would kill her. The alleged gang members were local to her neighborhood and knew where she lived. The CCHR Hate Crime Victim Advocate contacted several housing non-profits in an entirely different neighborhood and was able to secure a new apartment for the victim, so that she could feel safe. He also

informed her that, as an alleged crime victim and a witness she might qualify for a “U” visa to become documented, and she secured one. She is proceeding with the prosecution.

In another case, an undocumented Latine man was allegedly attacked outside of a bar by a group of men who shouted racial slurs and continued beating him, even as he fell to the ground, unconscious. He needed five staples to seal the huge gash in the top of his head, plus a neck brace. The victim was left unable to work for a significant period of time. The CCHR Hate Crime Victim Advocate connected him with the Illinois Attorney General’s victim compensation fund. He accompanied the victim to meetings with CPD and the State’s Attorney’s Office. He advocated for the production of bodycam footage, which the victim and he viewed together. This revealed that the wrong person had been arrested. The victim identified the alleged correct perpetrator who was then arrested. CCHR’s Hate Crime Victim Advocate also notified the victim that as an alleged crime victim and witness he might qualify for a “U” visa to become documented, which the man did secure.

These are only some of the many examples of how the CCHR Hate Crime Victim Advocate utilizes an empathetic, resourceful, creative, and interpersonal approach to assist hate crime victims. One of the main things that he hears from victims, when he contacts them and says that he is from the City, and he is here to help, is that they are grateful that, “someone from the City cares.”

Unity Brunch

In past years, CCHR held ‘Unity’ events that were designed to bring together Chicagoans from different demographic groups. These events were mounted in

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collaboration with the Advisory Councils established under Section 2-120-500 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, when they were housed at CCHR and were fully staffed. Previously, CCHR had approximately 80 staff members, four times as many as it does today, which is approximately 20 staff.

Staff cuts began near the end of the Richard M. Daley Administration. The Rahm Emmanuel Administration further cut the CCHR staff. Over time, CCHR's staff and budget shrank and as a result, the Unity events were discontinued.

Commissioner Andrade took the helm of CCHR during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when everyone at the agency still worked remotely. Once the pandemic-era social distancing requirements began to relax, she decided to reinstate the Unity brand, with related events, to bring people back together, post-pandemic, to address prejudice, discrimination and hate, as they did in the past.

The first post-pandemic Unity event occurred in January 2023, when CCHR convened a Unity Brunch at the Chicago Cultural Center which consisted of a couple of panels and speakers. Attendees included non-profit leaders, City Council members, and other community-based stakeholders. Speakers included then-Mayor Lori Lightfoot, and then-CPD Superintendent David Brown.

One panel was about ***Prejudice and Discrimination***. Panelists included Jake Agron of the Anti-Defamation League; Margaret Kujulian of the Circuit Court of Cook County (and a CCHR Board Member); Ald. Nicole Lee (11th Ward); Channyn Parker of Howard Brown Health; and Sufyan Sobel of the Council on American Islamic Relations. One of the main

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takeaways was that when people take the time to get to know others who are different from themselves, it makes it harder to discriminate and be prejudiced. As Ms. Parker, a trans woman stated, “If you get to know me, it will be much harder for you to hate me.”

The second panel was on the subject of ***Hate Crimes***. Panelists included Willette Benford, Director of Reentry for the Office of the Mayor; Karina Ayala Bermejo of the Instituto del Progreso Latino (and a CCHR Board Member); Cynthia Gourneau of the American Indian Health Services of Chicago; Vanessa Harris of Fun 4 the Disabled; and Terrell Odom of the University of Chicago (and Chair of the Advisory Council on Veterans). One of the main takeaways was support for a community-based hate crime reporting pilot program to expand outreach and collection of hate crimes reports and data.

Attendees were surveyed and most also expressed support for a follow-up Unity event, to continue the process of people from different demographic segments getting to know one another, and support for the implementation of a community-based hate crime reporting pilot program.

Unity Summit

In July 2023, CCHR convened a Unity Summit at Malcolm X College. The all-day event coincided with the start of a new mayoral administration and a new City Council. Attendees included non-profit leaders, City Council members, and other community-based stakeholders. Audience participation was robust during the Q & A sessions that followed each panel.

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Mayor Brandon Johnson gave welcoming remarks. He stated: “Our purpose today is to foster dialogue, to think about how we can work together. While we hail from different neighborhoods, and come from diverse segments of our City’s population, we have one cause in common: Unity. That’s why we’re here...to talk about how to stand up to prejudice and discrimination. To boldly declare that *hate*...has no home in Chicago.”

The first panel was titled ***Public Safety and Public Health Through an LGBTQ+ Lens***. It was moderated by Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez (33rd Ward), Chair of the City Council Committee on Health and Human Relations. Panelists included Ald. Lamont Robinson (4th Ward); Michael Millstein, Deputy Director of Community Policing, CPD; Antonio King, LGBTQ Health and Outreach Liaison, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH); and Jin-Soo Huh, Chair, Chicago LGBTQ+ Advisory Council. Topics included the work of CPD’s LGBTQ+ Liaisons, and what was then known as the Treatment Not Trauma initiative, and since been renamed the Mental Health System Expansion (MHSE) initiative. These garnered support from attendees during the Q & A session that followed.

The second panel was titled ***Development without Displacement: Managing Community Change***. It was moderated by Daniel Hertz, Director of Planning Research and Development, Chicago Department of Housing. Panelists included Ald. Lee, Ald. Maria Hadden (49th Ward), and Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th Ward). Topics included community-driven participatory zoning, inclusionary zoning, preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing such as two- and four-flats, and support for new affordable housing, all to counter displacement from gentrification. Attendees supported these during the Q & A session that followed.

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The third panel was titled ***The Many Faces of Islam***. It was moderated by Ahmad Jitan, Director of Organizing and Advocacy, Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)(and a CCHR Board Member); Abdul Malik Ryan, Chaplain, DePaul University; Wesam Shahed, ASA, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office; Ndidi Okakpu, Convener of the Chicagoland Shura Council; and Dr. Sabha Abour, Chief of Staff, Office of Ald. Lamont Robinson (4th Ward). Major themes that emerged included shared experiences of microaggressions and implicit bias, the racial and ethnic diversity of the Muslim community, dispelling harmful myths about women in Islam, and the fact that Islam is fundamentally a religion of peace.

The fourth panel was titled ***Inspiring Young Chicagoans through Civic Engagement***. It was moderated by S. Mayumi “Umi” Grigsby, Esq., Chief of Policy for the Office of the Mayor. Panelists included Ald. Jessica Fuentes (26th Ward); Anthony Bryant, 3rd District, Chicago Police District Council; Camille Williams, Senior Programs Manager and Diversity Equity Inclusion and Accessibility Lead, Chicago Votes; and Julia Gould, University of Toronto undergrad (and CCHR Summer Intern). Topics included: fully funding local public schools to include civics education; extending voter registration drives to high schools, community colleges, and universities; extending voter registration drives to jails to “unlock civics”; and passage of the Peace Book Ordinance which is a proposal for a violence prevention program made up of three components: Peacekeepers, a City-Wide Peace Commission, and youth-led Neighborhood Peace Commissions in communities most impacted by gun violence. Attendees expressed support for all of these during the Q & A session that followed.

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The closing panel was titled ***Standing Up to Racism, Antisemitism and Hate***. It was moderated by Rabbi Michael Siegel, Senior Rabbi, Anshe Emet Synagogue. Panelists included Ambassador Reyna Torres Mendivil, Consul General of Mexico; Pastor Raymond Chang, President, Asian American Christian Collaborative; Karen Freeman-Wilson, CEO, Chicago Urban League; and Norman White, Hate Crime Victim Advocate, CCHR. The main theme that emerged is that communication between different demographics is vital to mutual understanding and acceptance. Attendees expressed a strong desire to continue to convene and foster dialogue. Plans are being discussed for another Unity Summit in the near future.

THINK BEFORE YOU HATE: CCHR's Ongoing Initiatives

Think Before You Hate Ad Campaign

In December 2023, CCHR launched the ***Think Before You Hate*** campaign which encompasses the Hate Crime Reporting Community Pilot Program, plus implementation of the amendments to the Hate Crimes Ordinance. The campaign roll-out included ads on CTA buses, trains and platforms, and on digital billboards throughout Chicago.

The purpose of the ad is self-evident; CCHR simply encourages the public to think before they engage in hate (and by implication, prejudice and discrimination). It is CCHR's position that hate, hate crimes, hate incidents, and all of their attendant harms thrive when people are not thinking rationally.

CCHR has already distributed posters and leaflets with the slogan and a QR code directing the public to our website. We will work to expand this message to the public.

CCHR is in the process of hiring a Public Relations Representative. When this person begins, one of their first tasks will be to develop creative ways to promote and disseminate our message.

Hate Crime Reporting Community Pilot Program

As noted above, the underreporting of hate crimes results in skewed data. It also means that harmful behavior is not addressed. As also noted above, underreporting is due to multiple factors, including cultural differences, language issues, mistrust of law enforcement, fear of deportation, and lack of knowledge of the law.

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CCHR seeks to address these issues by developing a Hate Crime Reporting Community Pilot Program which was a takeaway from the Unity Brunch program in January 2023. CCHR partnered with CPD to apply for a DOJ Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program grant. In October 2023, we were awarded \$400,000 to assist with the implementation of the program over the next four years. This program will entail working with a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse group of community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve populations most often targeted for hate crimes: members of the African American community, White community, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community, Latine community, LGBTQ+ community, Jewish community, and Arab and Muslim communities, among others. The agencies will be strategically located to enable access to potential victims across Chicago.

The initial cohort of CBOs who have agreed to partner with us on this initiative include: the Chicago Urban League; the Anti-Defamation League; the Howard Brown Health Center; Metropolitan Community Services; the Chinese American Service League; the Instituto del Progreso Latino; and North Side Community Resources.

These partners will serve as alternate sites where the public can go to report hate crimes. The agencies identified to participate in this program are well established with strong relationships within the communities they serve. Residents will be able to go to these agencies to report hate incidents, hate crimes, and community tensions. They can do so in a culturally competent space, in their own language, with people they trust.

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For hate incidents and hate crimes, the agency representative will not take a report but will instead call 911 to have a police officer come to the agency. The agency representative will be with the victim to provide support and assistance, including translation services if needed.

CCHR will provide training to the agencies about hate crimes and the victim assistance process. To ensure the development of a legally sound police report, which will be instrumental in the potential prosecution of these acts, agency representatives will be instructed not to initiate the taking of a report.

Similarly, when a resident comes to one of the partner agencies to report a community tension, the community representative will contact CCHR, which will then send a staff person to visit the site to speak with the resident. The CCHR staff person will work with parties to resolve disputes before tensions escalate and the possibility of violence increases.

CCHR will also develop educational outreach materials for this campaign including posters and one-page handouts which will be translated into multiple languages. Transit advertisements on the City's buses, trains, and rail stations, funded through a separate initiative, will be key to promoting the project. Social media posts will also be an important aspect of the outreach campaign.

For many years, CCHR has worked with community organizations to provide education about hate crimes. Despite the increased numbers of hate crimes reported annually to CPD, CCHR believes there may be underreporting. Besides providing safe

spaces to report hate incidents and hate crimes, another important goal for the pilot is to build trust in the community to reach out to CPD. To be clear, the pilot program is not designed to replace 911 or 311, but to supplement those avenues for reporting.

Amended Hate Crimes Ordinance

As stated above, in December 2023, the City Council amended the City’s Hate Crimes Ordinance. The amendment added “hate incidents” to the ordinance. This was done to address the growing rate of bias-motivated crimes and incidents, and because hate incidents may sometimes be precursors to hate crimes.

CCHR worked with Ald. Silverstein, CPD, the Department of Law, and the Office of the Mayor to craft an ordinance that is narrowly tailored to further the compelling governmental interest of addressing harmful hate incidents, while at the same time protecting our cherished First Amendment right of free speech.

Since adoption of the amended ordinance, CCHR led collaborations with Ald. Silverstein, CPD, the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC), which oversees the 311 system, plus, the Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS), which oversees graffiti removal, to implement the different elements required by the ordinance. We provided training to all aldermanic offices regarding the amended ordinance and the new protocols for graffiti removal, since hateful graffiti must be documented and investigated as a hate crime.

Hateful Flyers

Chicago has recently become the scene of a campaign of hateful propaganda and possible harassment.¹⁸² Beginning in autumn of 2023, following the start of the Israel-Hamas war, someone or some people began to leave hateful flyers in several Chicago neighborhoods.¹⁸³

The flyers, linked to a nationally active White supremacist group, were found mostly on cars, although occasionally at people's residences. The flyers are crude in nature and appear to be cut from pieces of cardboard.¹⁸⁴ They include discriminatory and hateful messages, handwritten in thick black marker. The messages target the Jewish community and spread antisemitic myths, tropes, slurs, and conspiracy theories. Many include swastikas and SS lightning bolts, which are common White supremacist and neo-Nazi symbols.¹⁸⁵ Sometimes the flyers or leaflets are left in plastic sandwich bags that also contain rice or woodchips that look like rat poison.¹⁸⁶

Several wards have been impacted, including those represented by Ald. Brian Hopkins (2nd Ward), Ald. Scott Waguespack (32nd Ward), Ald. Timmy Knudsen (43rd Ward), Ald. James Gardiner (45th Ward), Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth (48th Ward), and Ald. Silverstein.

¹⁸² <https://hoodline.com/2024/02/chicago-rattled-by-antisemitic-flyers-community-leaders-and-authorities-respond-to-hate-surge/>

¹⁸³ <https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/16/more-antisemitic-signs-found-on-dozens-of-cars-in-jefferson-park/>

¹⁸⁴ *Id.*

¹⁸⁵ *Id.*

¹⁸⁶ <https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/04/08/antisemitic-flyers-with-rat-poison-like-substance-found-in-lincoln-park-alderman-says>

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According to some Alderpersons in impacted wards, the areas where flyers have been left have concentrations of Jewish constituents. This suggests it may be a strategic and tactical campaign to harass and cause fear.

The messages on the flyers and the perceived *modus operandi* of the perpetrator or perpetrators are consistent with a national campaign being spearheaded by a White supremacist group. CCHR is not naming the group as it is believed that they relish the attention and recognition that comes with media coverage, and we do not want to gratify or encourage them.

Many of the flyers have an address that led to the group's website, although this appears to no longer be active. Similar types of flyers, with similar messages, and the same website have been similarly distributed in cities and towns across the United States.¹⁸⁷

Such conduct may reasonably be considered a hate incident. Now that Chicago amended the Hate Crimes Ordinance to include hate incidents, the public has an option to report such activity.

Since CCHR became aware of this campaign, we have responded by going to each area where such flyers have been distributed and counter-leafletting, door-to-door. We notify neighbors that the City is aware of the incident, that this qualifies as a hate incident, that they have the option to report it as a hate incident, and that reporting is as easy as dialing 311. Our flyers also contain a QR code that leads to the CCHR website so that residents may learn more.

¹⁸⁷ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/antisemitic-flyers-dozens-cities-states_n_621820dee4b06e1cc58ca726

CCHR becomes aware of these incidents when we hear about them from the CPD Civil Rights Unit, the local Alderperson, or we see it in the news. As soon as we learn about a new occurrence, we deploy to counter-leaflet. Whenever practicable we work in conjunction with the local Alderperson. To date we have leafletted with Ald. Waguespack, Ald. Knudsen, Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth, and Ald. Silverstein.

The Migrant Mission

Beginning in August 2022, Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbot began to transport asylum seekers to northern cities led by Democrats to make a partisan point about federal border policy.¹⁸⁸ Since we have long been a Welcoming City, Gov. Abbot targeted Chicago as one of those destinations.¹⁸⁹

Thereafter, tens of thousands of asylum seekers and other migrants have streamed into the City in need of sanctuary and services to start their new life in this country.¹⁹⁰

When the migrant mission began, the City put out an all-hands-on deck call to all agencies to help receive the volume of new arrivals.

CCHR is a small agency. At the time, our staff numbered in the mid-teens. Of those, the vast majority work in the Adjudication Unit, which is focused on enforcement of the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance and the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance. This unit focuses on administrative law processes.

¹⁸⁸ <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/10/texas-migrant-buses-major-cities-numbers>

¹⁸⁹ <https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/battle-with-gov-abbott-chicago-becomes-latest-city-to-receive-migrants-from-texas-gov-greg-abbott-mayor-eric-adams-mayor-muriel-bowser-immigration-crisis-president-joe-bidens-border-policies>

¹⁹⁰ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/09/25/migrant-surge-us-cities/70921430007/>

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That makes the Inter-Group Relations Unit (IGR), our smallest unit, the nimbler arm of our department. Any new initiatives or challenges that CCHR faces depend on IGR's ability to pivot. The response to the arrival of thousands of people in need of services and support in a short amount of time became one of those new challenges.

At the time when buses began to arrive from Texas, IGR had four staff: three Human Relations Specialist IIs, and the Hate Crime Victim Advocate. Only two spoke Spanish, and the Hate Crime Victim Advocate is one of them. Thus, he became involved in receiving and serving recently arrived migrants. For many months, he spent one full day a week welcoming and helping to orient them.

Thereafter, CCHR hired a Director for IGR, a native-Spanish speaker, and he too became involved in the migrant mission. He has worked with the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights, and contributed to the City's migrant shelters and community safety efforts. Another IGR staff member, the only Spanish-speaking Human Relations Specialist II provided **Know Your Rights** presentations and **Anti-Bullying** workshops to migrants housed in the City's shelters.

This brings us to the connection with hate crimes and hate incidents. The high number of people coming from the Southern border has strained the already limited City resources.¹⁹¹ This has stirred conflict,¹⁹² resentment,¹⁹³ and frustration.¹⁹⁴ Some long-term

¹⁹¹ *Id.*

¹⁹² <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/contentious-meeting-over-new-migrant-shelter-held-in-citys-smith-park-neighborhood>

¹⁹³ <https://thehill.com/latino/4279680-tensions-new-established-migrants/>

¹⁹⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/chicago-migrants-black-latino-biden-immigration-ab8d7f22eea423d86fb350665b9e66f6>

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Chicago residents have complained about conflicts that they experience with their new neighbors, the men, women, and children seeking refuge in the City.¹⁹⁵

Since part of CCHR's mission is to address community tensions, and since we have been involved with the migrant mission from the beginning, the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement requested that CCHR work with migrants to address neighbors' concerns. CCHR is partnering with the Department of Family and Support Services and Department (DFSS) of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) for an initiative to present workshops in the migrant shelters.

The IGR team has created a program titled **How to Be a Good Neighbor...And Set Yourself Up for Success**. We will be facilitating these workshops in Spanish in the migrant shelters. The purpose will be to orient migrants about the different cultural standards, rules, laws, and norms that we have here in Chicago, which are at the root of many of the conflicts and complaints neighbors have shared with the City.

All of this is relevant to hate crimes and hate incidents. Just as hate incidents can be precursors to hate crimes, community tensions can be precursors to hate incidents. By working with the shelter residents on being good neighbors, we are doing our small part to help them adjust to life in Chicago. In doing so, we may also prevent or mitigate community tensions that can lead to hate incidents and hate crimes.

¹⁹⁵ <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2023/09/26/as-migrants-clash-near-high-volume-shelters-neighbors-and-businesses-grow-alarmed-we-dont-feel-safe>

Findings and Recommendations

The amended ordinance that requires CCHR to produce this report also specifies that the report should contain “any findings and recommendations to reduce or eliminate hate crimes and hate incidents, which may include an evaluation of City policies and procedures ensuring: (i) hate crimes and hate incidents are comprehensively investigated, tracked, and reported; and (ii) survivors receive assistance of City agencies, as appropriate.”¹⁹⁶

Pursuant to that directive, CCHR respectfully makes the following suggestions:

1. Pass the proposed hate littering ordinance.¹⁹⁷

A proposal by Ald. Knudsen would further amend the Municipal Code of Chicago to prohibit leaving hateful or threatening material on people’s personal, private, or real property.

CCHR believes this may help address the issue of individuals and groups threatening, harassing or otherwise targeting members of protected classes with hateful messaging that exceeds the bounds of protected speech. Ald. Knudsen introduced the proposed ordinance after constituents in his ward received over 80 hateful flyers.

Care must be taken to craft the language of the proposed ordinance narrowly, with great precision, in order to protect free speech rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

¹⁹⁶ *Supra* note 6.

¹⁹⁷ <https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/04/17/hate-littering-would-be-fineable-offense-under-proposed-ordinance/>

CCHR is committed to working with Ald. Knudsen, the Department of Law, and the Office of the Mayor on this proposal.

2. Review staffing model in CPD Civil Rights Unit for mission optimization.

In October 2022, when Commissioner Andrade testified before the City Council Committee on the Budget and Government Operations, she shared that year-to-date, in Chicago, there had been a 71% increase in hate crimes reported to CCHR over the same period for the previous year.¹⁹⁸ At that point, CPD had forwarded CCHR reports for 77 hate crimes, compared to 45 for the same period during the previous year.¹⁹⁹

It is important to note that those numbers reflected only the hate crimes that CPD had forwarded to CCHR at that date. As was noted in the news coverage at that time, CPD had received reports of 120 hate crimes during the same period.²⁰⁰ Therefore, 43 of the reports made to CPD had not yet been forwarded to CCHR. The reason for this is that those reports were not ready.

Unfortunately, a backlog of reports accumulated because, at the time, the CPD Civil Rights Unit was under-resourced and CPD was suffering a shortage of officers.²⁰¹ To make matters worse, Chicago, like the rest of the country, had just experienced a pandemic-era

¹⁹⁸ *Supra* note 66.

¹⁹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰⁰ *Id.*

²⁰¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-police-department-manpower-shortage-burnout-retirements-low-applications/>

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spike in crime that strained CPD resources and made the previous year, 2021, the City's, "deadliest year in a quarter century."²⁰²

Under that strain, the Civil Rights Unit lost members as officers were deployed to other units. By 2022, the Civil Rights Unit was down to one officer, from a previous average of 8 to 10. Under such trying conditions, backlogs are inevitable.

Delays in receiving CPD reports impact the work of serving hate crime victims. CCHR cannot contact a victim until a report is received. The value of providing support or assistance to a victim depends on reaching out as close to the incident as possible. Calling someone months after they have been victimized is sometimes helpful, but often it is not.

Over the past year, CPD has again been able to staff the Civil Rights Unit. Currently, they have seven people working there, including a Commander, a Sergeant, Officers, and a Detective. During this time, the teamwork between CCHR and the Civil Rights Unit has been more effective.

CCHR has collaborated with the Civil Rights Unit on implementation of the amendments to the Hate Crimes Ordinance. Victims are being supported in a timely and more effective manner. Plus, Alderpersons are timely kept abreast of hate crimes and hate incidents occurring in their wards.

²⁰² <https://apnews.com/article/police-violence-chicago-united-states-homicide-53931ce4993937b570dd61dbbaa146ce>

3. Connect 311 hate incident reporters to the Mental Health System Expansion (MHSE) Initiative

The 311 system has been taking hate incident reports since January of this year. During that time, CCHR, CPD, and OEMC staff have monitored the reports that are coming in. Many reports do not constitute bona fide hate incidents. While we are not mental health professionals, it is apparent that, of those reports that are not bona fide hate incidents, a percentage appear to show signs of mental health issues.

Given the fact that the City is now reimagining community safety, and that the Mental Health System Expansion Working Group (MHSE) recommendations will be central to those efforts, it may be that the 311 system, at least when it comes to hate incidents reporters, may provide an opportunity for referrals for mental health services. MHSE recommends the expansion of clinical services and non-police, behavioral health crisis response. This will provide more opportunities for referral to mental and behavioral health services and the means by which to receive those mental and behavioral health services.

CCHR has partnered with the CDPH, CPD, and OEMC, and begun an ad hoc practice of referring possible clients to CDPH. CCHR recommends that this be made a formal process in coordination with relevant Departments and Mayor's Office staff who are leading on MHSE implementation.

4. Implement Educational Responses for Youth to Address the Problem of Hate

According to the FBI, in a report issued earlier this year, as many as 1 in 10 hate crimes in the U.S. takes place at schools, from kindergarten through college.²⁰³ Schools are the third most frequent location for hate crimes, after residences and roadways/alleys.²⁰⁴ African American students are the most frequent targets, followed by Jewish and LGBTQ+ students.²⁰⁵ Nearly two-thirds of reported hate crimes that occur in schools take place in kindergarten-through-12th grade schools.²⁰⁶

New York City recently launched a curriculum in public schools to address hate crimes and bias incidents.²⁰⁷ The unit helps students learn, “what hate crimes are and the impacts they have on both individuals and communities, including schools.”²⁰⁸ The lessons are meant to help students, “understand current trends in hate crimes, types of perpetrator behavior, actions that can help prevent hate crimes, and community initiatives that foster belonging.”²⁰⁹

CCHR recommends that the Chicago Public Schools implement such curriculum options for our students, perhaps as a supplement to their social and emotional learning initiatives. Education is key to the development of the individual and to the advancement of civil society. Today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders.

²⁰³ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/one-10-us-hate-crimes-occur-schools-fbi-says-2024-01-29/>

²⁰⁴ *Id.*

²⁰⁵ *Id.*

²⁰⁶ *Id.*

²⁰⁷ <https://www.silive.com/education/2024/04/nyc-unveils-curriculum-in-public-schools-to-address-hate-crimes-bias-incidents.html>

²⁰⁸ *Id.*

²⁰⁹ https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-about-hate-crimes-their-impacts?utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery

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If we invest in teaching our children and young adults not only about the impact of hate, but also about the joys and benefits of tolerance, inclusion, equity, and understanding, then we will stand a chance of helping to rid Chicago of hate. This curriculum could be a model for statewide implementation to supplement the Inclusive Curriculum Law, the TEAACH Act, and Public Act 103-0422, which were referenced above.

Conclusion

President Joseph R. Biden said, “Any hate crime is a stain on the soul of America.”²¹⁰

CCHR could not agree more. Hate crimes and hate incidents are a scourge to the nation, our state, our county and our beloved City of Chicago.

Regardless of how the data is measured, recorded, and reported across the various jurisdictions, there is a consensus that the numbers of hate crimes and hate incidents have gone up. Many of our family, friends, and neighbors feel threatened by hate, hate incidents, and hate crimes.

This is not a new problem.

Hatred is an ancient malady. It has plagued humanity from early on.

In one of his most famous sermons, *Loving Your Enemies*, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”²¹¹

Peace, equity, and prosperity depend on all good people, and all good governments, to remain vigilant, and to stand against the hate that festers in the world. As we imagine a more equitable, inclusive, and just Chicago, one where hate does not exist, we must think of the role that we play, each of us, as individuals, and as members of our respective communities, to make this City a better, safer, stronger place.

²¹⁰ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/16/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-hate-crime-statistics/> (On the release of the FBI's 2022 Annual Hate Crimes Report)

²¹¹ Delivered at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, on November 17, 1957.

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We all have a responsibility to do our part.

That is why Mayor Johnson boldly stated: “Hate...has no home in Chicago.”

This is not a passive statement. It is a call to action.

We at the Chicago Commission on Human Relations stand ready to oppose hate.

We hope that you will join us. Thank you.

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