

EXECUTIVE ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject: Response to Bias-Related Crimes and Incidents
Number EO-17-032
Effective Date November 17, 2017
Related To: SO-11-22 (Bias-Related/Hate Crimes), Effective Date, December 1, 2011 EO-16-008 [Update to EO-16-002 (Processing Crime Scenes: AXON Capture, Crime Scene Investigations Division, and Department of Forensic Sciences)], Effective Date, August 30, 2016 TT-11-008-17 (Bias-Related Crimes and Incidents), Issue Date, November 3, 2017

I. PURPOSE

In 2017, over a dozen suspected nooses and swastikas have been found in the District of Columbia. Reports of other bias-related crimes and incidents have also increased in the District in the past two years. Reasons include additional training in the identification of bias-related crimes and incidents, public awareness, and actual increases in occurrences. There is a similar trend nationwide. Sometimes these crimes and incidents occur immediately following major crimes or incidents elsewhere, such as the recent terrorist attack in New York City. It is important to stay aware of national and international events, as indicators of bias may lie outside of the immediate crime or incident scene. These targeted crimes and incidents can contribute to a general state of fear and anxiety in those with shared traits. A coordinated and thorough police response reassures victims and other community members, and may prevent future crimes.

D.C. Official Code § 22-3312.02 (Defacing or burning cross or religious symbol; display of certain emblems) governs the Metropolitan Police Department's handling of these types of crimes and incidents. The purpose of this order is to remind members of SO-11-22 (Bias-Related/Hate Crimes) which provides direction on response, investigation, and documentation of these crimes or incidents as well as announce new procedures for members who become aware of a noose (real or simulated) or swastika, anything resembling a noose or swastika, or other item that may fall under D.C. Official Code § 22-3312.02, on public or private space.

II. REGULATIONS

- A. Members shall be familiar with D.C. Official Code § 22-3312.02 (Defacing or burning cross or religious symbol; display of certain emblems) in the identification and reporting of bias-related crimes and incidents.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Members becoming aware of a real or simulated noose or swastika, anything resembling a noose or swastika, or other item that may fall under this offense, on public or private space, regardless of the purpose of the space's use, shall:
1. Secure the scene and any witnesses, as if it were the scene of a crime.
 2. Notify an official, who shall respond to the scene.
 3. Notify the element watch commander, who shall note the crime or incident on the PD Form 150 (Tour of Duty Supervisor's Report).
 4. Notify a detective, who shall respond to the scene.
 5. For all scenes, ensure that photographs are taken using the Axon Capture application according to EO-16-008 [Update to EO-16-002 (Processing Crime Scenes: AXON Capture, Crime Scene Investigations Division, and Department of Forensic Sciences)].
 6. If there is a noose or other physical evidence, request that the scene be processed by the Department of Forensic Science, to include photographs, diagrams, latent prints, DNA swabs, and seize any evidence.
 7. Notify the Special Liaison Branch via the Command Information Center.
 8. Classify the crime or incident in RMS as "Defacing Public or Private Property", indicate that it is a suspected hate crime, and note the presence of a noose or swastika in the public narrative.
 9. Follow all procedures as they appear in SO-11-22, including making notification to hate.crimes@dc.gov or 202-727-0500.

IV. POINT OF CONTACT

Members shall direct all questions to Acting Lieutenant Brett Parson, Special Liaison Branch (brett.parson@dc.gov or 202-497-0989).



Peter Newsham
Chief of Police