

Creating Safer Communities

- A Novel Hate Crime Training Opportunity -

"The fact is hate crimes are real, on the rise, chronically underreported, and have widespread negative impacts on targeted communities. It is our duty to pay attention, sound the alarm and work to solve this growing public safety emergency."

- Cynthia Deitle, Matthew Shepard Foundation Director of Programs & Operations

THE PROBLEM

Across the country, hate crimes are underreported, making it difficult for government officials to respond appropriately. In 2018, 88% of law enforcement agencies reported zero hate crimes to the FBI, yet bias-motivated violence continues to undermine public safety and trust in these communities.

The majority of states do not mandate that their law enforcement academies provide instruction on hate crimes – resulting in undertrained officers and lack of trust from targeted communities.

THE IDEAL SCENARIO



THE SOLUTION

The Creating Safer Communities Hate Crimes Training is designed to adequately train law enforcement officers and prosecutors to identify, investigate, prosecute and report hate crimes. Advanced training in hate crimes results in:

- Greater understanding of the need for effective and prompt hate crime enforcement as a means to strengthen trust with targeted minority communities.
- Proficient recognition and identification of bias indicators and enhanced communication skills necessary for engaging with victims in a sensitive and respectful manner.
- Enhanced ability to determine what facts are necessary to substantiate the criminal charge and bias motivation, helping prosecutors and police work together to obtain a conviction and accurately report hate crimes data.

THE RESULTS

Since January 2018, the Matthew Shepard Foundation and Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has provided hate crimes training to nearly 1,000 officers and prosecutors in the following cities: Knoxville, TN; Providence, RI; Tampa, FL; Brattleboro, VT; Durham, NH; San Antonio, TX; Arlington, TX; Chicago, IL; Phoenix, AZ; Flagstaff, AZ; Austin, TX



Testimonial

"This isn't a theory class; this is actually working real cases so we can become better ourselves, and working in that collaborative effort between investigators and prosecutors and advocates because those are going to be the people in the real world that are going to be taking those cases forward."

- Sgt. Michael Crumrine, Austin Police Department