



READINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

507 Route 523 • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889-9495
(908)534-4031 • Fax (908)534-1266

Joseph J. Greco, Chief of Police

A Bias Incident or hate crime is defined as any suspected or confirmed offense or unlawful act which occurs against a person or property (public or private) on the basis of New Jersey's nine protected classes: race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and national origin.

The Readington Township Police Department has in place a Bias Incident Investigation Policy. **Any person that believes he or she is a victim of a bias incident should immediately contact the police.**

The goal of the Readington Township Police Department is to:

- Approach victims in a sensitive and supportive manner.
- Reassure victims that appropriate investigative and enforcement methods will be used by the law enforcement agency to properly address the bias incident.
- Ensure that a thorough and complete initial response and follow-up investigation are conducted as required by the facts and circumstances surrounding the suspected or confirmed bias incident, which includes providing for appropriate community relations activities and crime prevention programs.
- Refer the victims/witnesses to the appropriate Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy or the Division on Civil Rights, where appropriate.
- Interact with concerned community service organizations, civic groups, and religious institutions regarding the suspected or confirmed bias incident.
- Effectively calm victims and reduce their fear and alienation through direct, ongoing official communication regarding the bias incident.
- Notify the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), the Division of State Police (NJSP), and the appropriate County Prosecutor's Office of all bias incidents as detailed herein.
- Ensure that victims and other concerned parties are afforded all the rights and protections provided under the New Jersey Constitutional Amendment for Victim's Rights and the Crime Victim's Bill of Rights