

21.00.140 HATE CRIME OFFENSE

Definition

A person is guilty of a Hate Crime Offense if he/she maliciously and intentionally commits one of the following acts because of his or her perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or mental, physical, or sensory disabilities:

- ❖ Causes physical injury to another person; or
- ❖ Causes physical damage to or destruction of the property of the victim or another person; or
- ❖ Threatens a specific person or group of persons and places that person, or members of the specific group of persons, in reasonable fear of harm to person or property.

Commission of a Hate Crime Offense is a Class C felony.

Response

Department personnel shall respond to reports of a Hate Crime Offense (RCW 9A.36.080) in accordance with its significance as both a felony and a matter of great community concern.

All personnel will be sensitive and responsive to the natural anxieties of the victim(s) of a Hate Crime Offense. Officers will preserve all relevant evidence and immediately conduct a thorough follow-up investigation whenever this crime is brought to the attention of the Department.

It will be the responsibility of command and supervisory officers to make certain that a reported Hate Crime Offense is properly documented, and a priority follow-up investigation is expeditiously completed in an attempt to both identify and charge any persons responsible for the crime.