



COUNTY OF ORANGE

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Orange County Releases 2018 Hate Crimes Report

Santa Ana, Calif. (September 10, 2019) — On September 26, 2019, the public is invited to participate in the release of the County of Orange 2018 Hate Crimes Report. The report will also be available online upon release at www.occommunityservices.org/oc_human_relations_commission.

To increase awareness, strengthen hate crime prevention programming, and promote a bias-free community, the County produces and publishes an annual hate crimes report.

The 2018 report reflects an increase in hate crimes from 2017 in Orange County, with the most frequent victims being people of the Jewish faith, and Latino and Middle Eastern communities. The report also cites the recent Blaze Bernstein case, a 19-year-old who fell victim to a hate crime in Orange County last year.

“The time is now. Together, we can oust fear and bigotry tied to this hate, and, instead, promote acceptance and embrace what makes each one of us different,” said Chairwoman Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District Supervisor. “The County will continue to invest in the necessary resources to prevent these hate crimes and incidents from occurring.”

The County of Orange would like to thank the Orange County Human Relations Council, which is contracted by the County to work closely with law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, diverse faith leaders, and community members to respond and track hate crimes and incidents on behalf of the County. The County would also like to thank the Orange County Human Relations Commission who are volunteer members of the public appointed by the Orange County Board of Supervisors to seek out the causes of tension and conflict; discrimination and intolerance based on race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or marital status; and attempt to eliminate those causes.

To learn more about services provided by the County through the Human Relations Council and the Commission, please visit www.occommunityservices.org.

Report Release Information:

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019

Time: 9 – 11 a.m.

Location: Los Olivos Community Center, 101 Alfonso, Irvine, CA 92618

Speakers: Jeanne and Gideon Bernstein, parents of hate crime victim Blaze Bernstein; Ebrahim Baytieth, Orange County District Attorney Office

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