

Bias Related Crimes

The Federal Hate/Bias Crime Reporting Act of 1990 and the New York State Hate Crimes Act of 2000 (Article 485 of the Penal Law) provides for increased penalties for specified crimes that have been committed based upon a victim's race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, disability, religion, religious practice or sexual orientation. These crimes are known as "hate" or "bias related" crimes. The crimes covered by this law include: assault, endangerment, menacing, manslaughter, stalking, rape, sexual abuse, unlawful imprisonment, kidnapping, criminal trespass, grand and petit larceny, robbery and harassment. Hate crime laws are designed to send the message that hate and bias motivated crimes will not be tolerated, because they are often attempts to silence and instill fear into entire groups. It is a State University of New York (SUNY) and SUNY Maritime College mandate to protect all members of the Maritime College community by preventing and prosecuting bias or hate crimes that occur within the campus's jurisdiction. Penalties for bias crimes are very serious and range from fines to imprisonment for lengthy periods, depending on the nature of the underlying criminal offense. Perpetrators who are students will also be subject to campus disciplinary procedures where sanctions including dismissal from the College are possible.

Here is SUNY's "Bias-Related Crime Prevention Policy"- Document Number: 3850, adopted on July 01, 2004:

http://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=354

If you are a victim of, or witness to, a hate or bias related crime on campus, report it to the University Police by calling 911 in an emergency, using a Blue Light Phone, or campus telephone at 718-409-7311. Students are encouraged to seek counseling from trained psychologists on staff. They will assist with the consequences of bias related crime trauma and provide crisis intervention, in-office counseling, referral to other support services and self-help groups. The College will assist any student wishing to contact outside agencies, including local police, regarding charges and complaints of a bias related crime. If you are a Maritime College employee, you may report to the Human Resources Department at 718-409-7302.

All bias-related incident reports shall be considered confidential. Any personal information obtained during the investigation or adjudication of the matter will be subject to disclosure only to the extent required by law.

Campus crime statistics including bias-related and bias/hate crimes are updated annually in the SUNY Maritime College Security and Fire Safety Report and filed with the U.S. Department of Education. This report is posted on SUNY Maritime College University Police web page and will be provided upon request by University Police Department.

Nothing contained in this policy shall be construed to limit or restrict freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.

University Police

Bias Crime Prevention Education Programs

Maritime College Office of the Dean of Students is actively engaged in educating the campus community on the prevention of hate/bias related crimes. Informational pamphlets are available at the Office of Student Affairs and new student orientation programs. In addition, the prevention of bias-related crimes are the subject of seminars/lectures and workshops throughout the academic year.