



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Anne Arundel County Branch

"Freedom Fighters for a New Century"

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BILL: SB1611
TITLE: Hate Crimes - Use of any item or symbol to threaten or intimidate
NAACP POSITION: Support
HEARING DATE: 1/29/20 1:00 PM
COMMITTEE: House Judiciary Committee
SPONSOR: Senator Will Smith

In 2017 the Maryland State Police reported that hate and bias incidents in Maryland surged 40 percent. Forty-three percent of those reported incidents were directed at African Americans.

The matter of hate crimes has touched Anne Arundel County deeply in the last two years and months. The county branches of the NAACP hear about these accounts first hand, as we are very often the first point of contact for a family victimized by acts of hate symbols intended to intimidate. On April 4, 2018, the 50th anniversary of MLK Jr.'s assassination, school officials found a Confederate flag in a truck bed parked at Chesapeake High School with a noose and a pair of dice with Confederate symbols hanging from the rear-view mirror of the vehicle.

This fall, a student at Chesapeake High School received a direct message via AirDrop with a confederate flag and a threat laced with a racial epithet. Days later, a toilet paper noose was found hanging in a restroom at the same school. "Kill All Blacks" was written on a counseling center sign-in sheet. Racial slurs have been carved on bathroom stalls.

Adults are also carrying out these acts. We have all heard by now of the two young men who hung a noose in the courtyard of Crofton Middle School in 2017. This year recruiting fliers for the KKK have been found peppering the driveways of north county neighborhoods more than once.

October 2019 an effigy was hung from a tree in Glen Burnie by a white male on a man of color property.

The governor's report on hate crime indicated an increase in Anne Arundel County. Hate Crimes and bias incidents appear to be concentrated in the northeastern part of the state of Maryland. Almost 45 % of all of the hate crimes in Anne Arundel County occurred in North Anne Arundel County. 31.1 % of **all reporting** occurred at an academic institution; elementary/secondary through college/university.

There is outspoken hatred in our county that must be uprooted; that is certain. NAACP branches along with many other groups across the state fight this battle daily. But until that mountainous initiative can be completed, our branch asks you to pass legislation that creates a strong legal deterrent for those considering committing such an act. Nooses and swastikas placed with the intent to intimidate is an act of harassment at best and it would not be too far afield to label it domestic terrorism.

We implore the House Judiciary Committee to vote favorably for Senator Elfredth bill so that just consequences may be applied to those affixing symbols of hate crimes with the intent to intimidate.

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