



Testimony on Expanding Scope of Hate-Crimes Enhancement

Office of Attorney General Charity Clark

Senate Judiciary Committee – March 19, 2025

Todd Daloz, AAG

Title 13, Chapter 31: Discrimination

§ 1454. Statement of purpose

The Legislature finds and declares that it is the right of every person to enjoy the public peace and that sense of security and tranquility afforded by the protection of the law, and that wrongful activities motivated by hatred toward particular classes or groups of persons invade that protection. It is not the intent of this chapter to interfere with the exercise of rights protected by the constitutions of this State or the United States and the Legislature recognizes the constitutional rights of every citizen to harbor and express beliefs on any subject and to associate with others who share similar beliefs. (Added 1989, No. 172 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. May 12, 1990.)

Brattleboro Reformer

Vandalism involving swastikas under investigation in Brattleboro

By Chris Mays, Brattleboro Reformer Jan 7, 2024



BRATTLEBORO — Police officially announced they are investigating "multiple recent incidents of vandalism that have occurred in town" involving swastikas.

On Saturday, the Brattleboro Police Department issued a news release saying it received a report Dec. 23 that "someone had spray painted what appeared to be a hate symbol (swastika) on a mural in the Harmony Lot, as well as another location on Estey Street." A similar report was made Saturday about the gazebo (handstand) at the Esteville Common on Estey Street, police said.

Brattleboro Reformer

White supremacist, neo-Nazi graffiti decried in Brattleboro

By Chris Mays, Brattleboro Reformer Dec 28, 2023



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More racist graffiti mars Upper Valley



Eric Brown, left, and Luke Russ, right, of the Vermont Agency of Transportation, take time out from a ditching project to cover up a racial epithet spray painted on Route 14 in East Bethel, Vt., on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. They plan to return with gray graffiti cover-up paint when they have the resources for a lane closure due to the paint's long drying time. (Valley News - James M. Patterson) Copyright Valley News. May not be reprinted or used online without permission. Send requests to permission@vnews.com. James M. Patterson

VERMONT

Champlain Valley Union High School hit with swastika and racist graffiti



Nicole Higgins DeSmet

Burlington Free Press

Published 4:43 p.m. ET Feb. 7, 2019 | Updated 4:57 p.m. ET Feb. 8, 2019

THE Hardwick Gazette

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photo courtesy Hardwick Town Manager

New resident Jessica Gasper told both the town manager and Hardwick Police Department that neighboring tenants have been harassing her with anti-Semitic slurs and defaced her apartment door.

Resident's Door Defaced with Anti-Semitic Graffiti

by Doug McClure

Royalton Barracks / Vandalism, request for information

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[Vermont State Police](#)

November 14, 2023, 20:11 GMT

STATION: VSP Royalton

CONTACT#: 802-234-9933

DATE/TIME: About 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

INCIDENT LOCATION: Vermont Route 14, East Bethel, VT

VIOLATION: Vandalism

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT:

The Vermont State Police is investigating a vandalism incident in which a racial slur was painted on the roadway along Vermont Route 14 near Factory Hill Road in East Bethel. Troopers received a report of the vandalism at about 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, and began an investigation. The Vermont Agency of Transportation will remove the graffiti from the pavement.

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H.118 – Proposed Text

1 H.118

2 An act relating to expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1455 is amended to read:

5 § 1455. HATE-MOTIVATED CRIMES

6 (a) A person who commits, causes to be committed, or attempts to commit

7 any crime and whose conduct is motivated, in whole or in part, by ~~the victim's~~

8 another person's or a group of persons' actual or perceived membership in a

9 protected category shall be subject to the following penalties:

AS PASSED BY HOUSE H.118
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1 (b) ~~The victim's~~ A person's or a group of persons' actual or perceived

2 membership in a protected category or categories need not be the predominant

3 reason or the sole reason for the defendant's conduct.