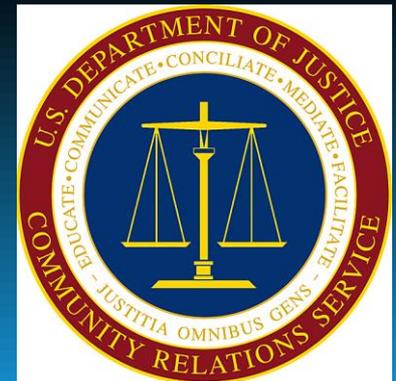


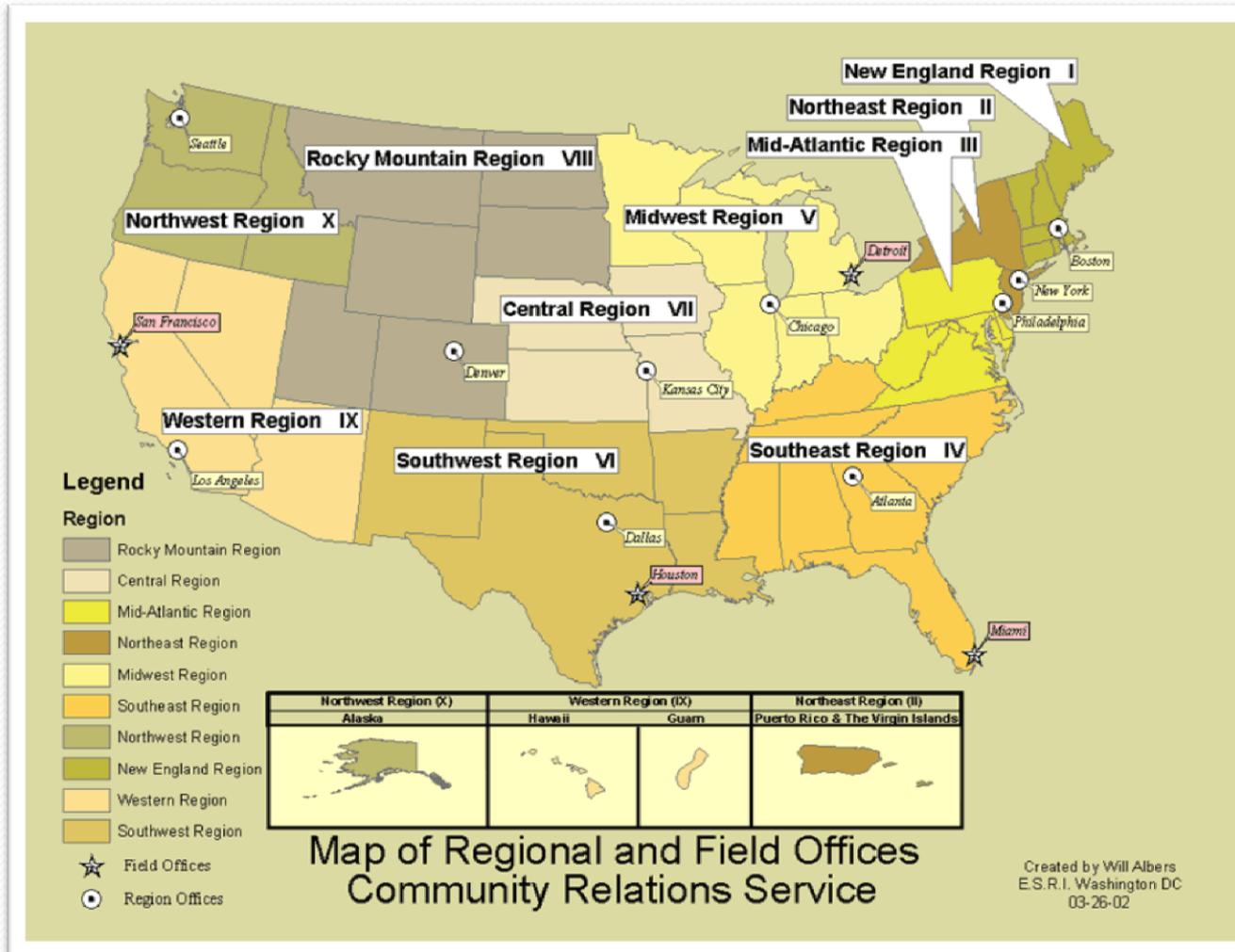


Community Relations Service U.S. Department of Justice

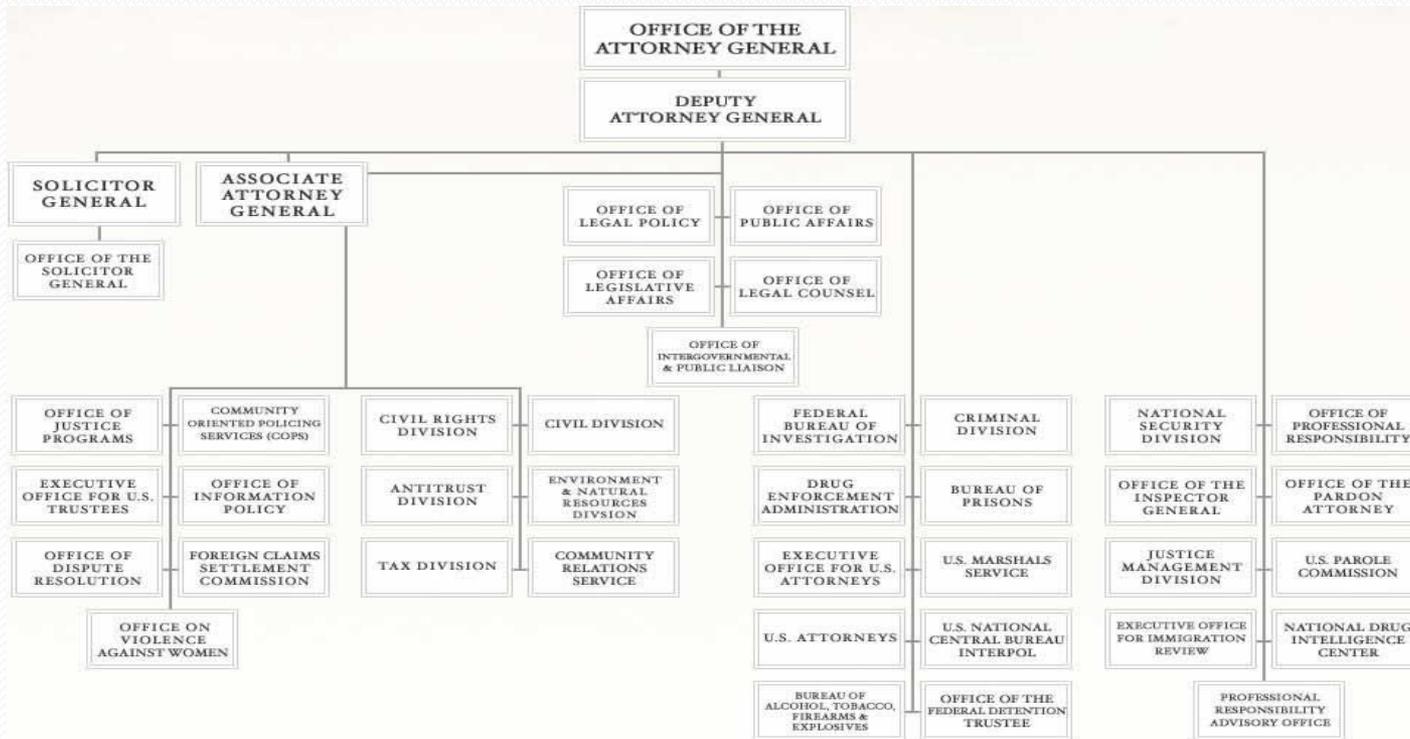
Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr.
Hate Crimes Prevention Act



Map of CRS Regional and Field Offices



U.S.D.OJ Organization Chart



APPROVED BY:  DATE: Mar. 2, 2009
 ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.
 ATTORNEY GENERAL

About the Community Relations Service

- Federal agency within the United States Department of Justice
- Function of the 1964 Civil Rights Act
- Responsible to assist communities to address conflict involving discriminatory practices based on:
 - Race
 - Color
 - National Origin
- Can intervene on its own volition

How CRS Assists Communities in Preventing and Responding To Alleged Violent Hate Crimes

- CRS works with communities to employ strategies to prevent and respond to alleged violent hate crimes committed on the basis of **actual** or **perceived**:
- Race
- Color
- National origin
- **Gender**
- **Gender identity**
- **Sexual orientation**
- **Religion**
- **Disability**
- CRS assists State and local units of government, private and public organizations, and community groups with preventing and resolving racial and ethnic tensions, incidents, and civil disorders.

Genesis of Hate Crimes Prevention Act; How Hate Crimes Impact on Communities

Matthew Shepard



- Caucasian, 21, identified as Gay
- Murdered by 2 Caucasian males near Laramie, Wyoming on October 12, 1998
- He was robbed, pistol-whipped, and tortured, then tied to a split-rail fence in a remote area and left to die
- He was discovered comatose 18 hours later by a cyclist who initially mistook him for a scarecrow
- He never regained consciousness

James Byrd, Jr.

- African-American, 49
- Murdered by 3 Caucasian males in Jasper, Texas, on June 7, 1998
- He was assaulted until he lost consciousness, then urinated upon and chained by the ankles to a pick-up truck and dragged for several miles, which severed his right arm and head
- “Lynching-by-dragging”
- His torso was dumped in front of the local African-American cemetery

Educate Communicate Conciliate Mediate Facilitate

CRS Conciliators:

- Facilitate communication to prevent violence and resolve conflicts
- Use mediation and conflict resolution procedures to restore community stability
- Remain **neutral and impartial**
- Required by law to maintain **strict confidentiality and avoid publicity**
- Carry no badges or guns
- Do not impose solutions, investigate, prosecute, or assign blame or fault



Mediation



Demonstrations, Marches, Rallies

Jena 6 – Jena, LA

9



2/3/2012

KKK Rally

February, 2010 - Georgia

10



2/3/2012

CRS Shares Technical Assistance for Events



- CRS provides self-marshalling training for organizers of protests and demonstrations, including permits, route selection, effective communication, logistical management, and contingency planning
- CRS assists local law enforcement, city officials, and demonstration organizers with planning and managing safe marches and demonstrations by facilitating meetings as a neutral entity to ensure that logistics are coordinated and that information is shared

Facilitation of Community Forums

¹² “Police Racial Profiling” - Chattanooga, TN

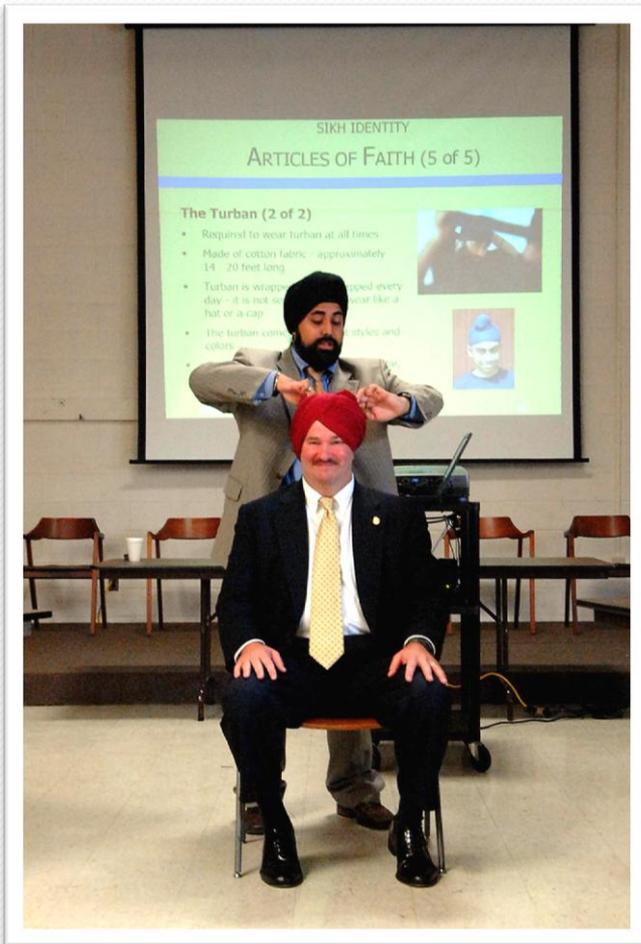


CRS Empowers Communities

- Provide guidance on policies that calm tension and conflicts associated with preventing and responding to violent hate crimes
- Conduct community forums to address tension and prevent conflicts from becoming violent
- Improve lines of communication between parties experiencing tension or conflict
- Enhance strategies of state and local governments and community groups to prevent and respond to civil disorders associated with violent hate crimes
- Help schools and universities prevent and respond to violent hate crimes



CRS Provides Specialized Training Programs



- **Hate crimes** training that provides law enforcement officers with best practices for identifying, reporting, investigating, and prosecuting hate crimes
- **Cultural awareness** training for law enforcement officers using Arab, Muslim, and Sikh community leaders
- **SPIRIT** (Student Problem Identifying and Resolving Issues Together) program engages students and stakeholders in formulating solutions to conflicts in schools
- **Technical assistance** on establishing rumor control mechanisms following hate crimes incidents, protests, police investigations, and jury verdicts

What Happens When CRS Responds

In the aftermath of a hate crime, CRS addresses community concerns regarding communication and timing

1. Align government officials and community groups who respond to alleged hate crime incidents and provide services to communities so that they all understand their respective roles and can maximize their ability to work together
2. Serve as a platform to put in place a response network, or infrastructure, that remains in and empowers the community, such as a Human Relations Commission
3. Help establish realistic expectations with respect to federal investigations and prosecutions



Case Example: Jasper, Texas

- In Jasper, Texas, CRS assisted officials with contingency planning for demonstrations and marches in the aftermath of the murder of James Byrd, Jr.
- CRS helped the city prepare for the national attention surrounding the funeral and burial, and then worked with a broad coalition of leaders to plan for racial reconciliation.



Case Example: Powhatan, VA

CASE FACTS:

- Increased community tension following the 2008 shooting death of an African-American high school student and the 2009 trial and pending sentencing of two Caucasian teenage males and a 24-year-old male accused of the shooting
- The two teenage males were charged with first-degree murder; however, the jury imposed a lesser verdict of involuntary manslaughter
- The jury verdict angered the victim's family as well as local and national civil rights leaders, who planned large marches and protests; Klan groups from surrounding areas also planned marches on similar dates

CRS RESPONSE:

- Facilitated meetings with the town manager, FBI, sheriff, local NAACP leaders, state police, and local area ministerial alliance leaders
- Helped willing parties create a rumor control mechanism in the form of a hotline
- Provided self-marshalling training and assistance to local law enforcement to ensure coordination between LEOs, protestors, and counter-protestors
- Discussed nature of ongoing FBI investigation, why it takes time, and why information cannot be shared
- Over a period of 8 months, CRS facilitated meetings to develop lasting mechanisms to address racial tension, including community dialogues involving school administrators and local civil rights leaders
- Met with community leaders to develop unity festivals and to unite them with other communities who have developed the capacity to address similar issues following difficult incidents

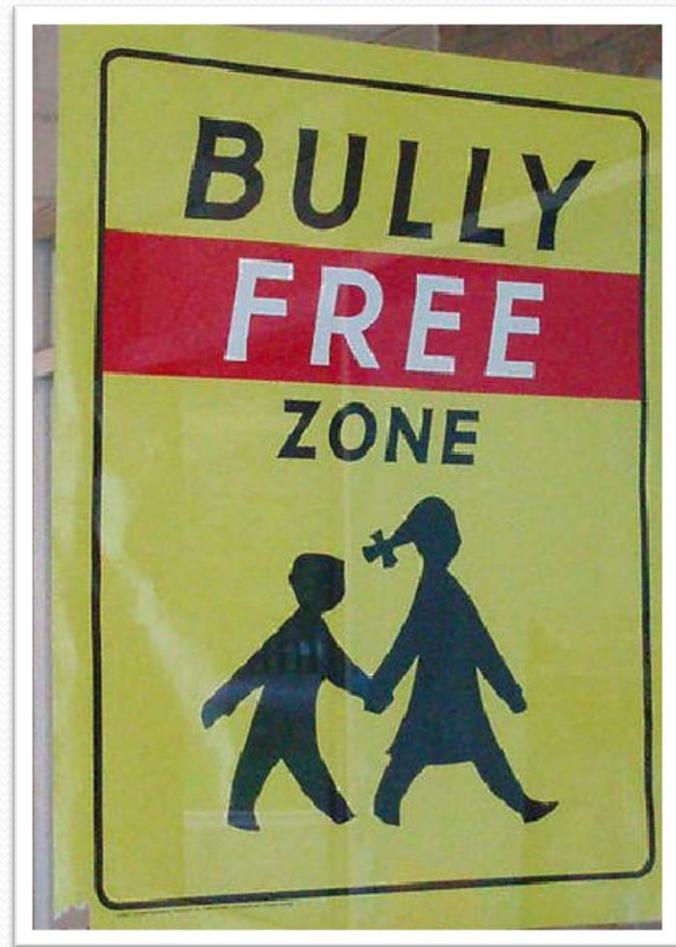
Case Example: Staten Island, NY

- CRS services requested by Latino community organizations, elected officials, and clergy as part of an action plan in the wake of 11 bias attacks against Latino community members in the Port Richmond section of Staten Island
- Met with Latino and other civil rights organizations as well as the requesting parties to discuss additional resolution strategies
- Sponsored a Community Forum to ensure public confidence in law enforcement and public safety and to provide information about hate crime investigations and prosecutions; panelists included leadership from the U.S. Attorney's Office, NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force, and the District Attorney for Staten Island
- Conduct a Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together/SPIRIT program and review anti-bias/harassment policies in Port Richmond High School
- Provide technical assistance for "I Am Staten Island," an anti-violence hate crime initiative sponsored by elected officials, community leaders, and clergy
- Provide contingency planning assistance for events planned over the next six months aimed at youth outreach and empowerment, and promoting peace in the community



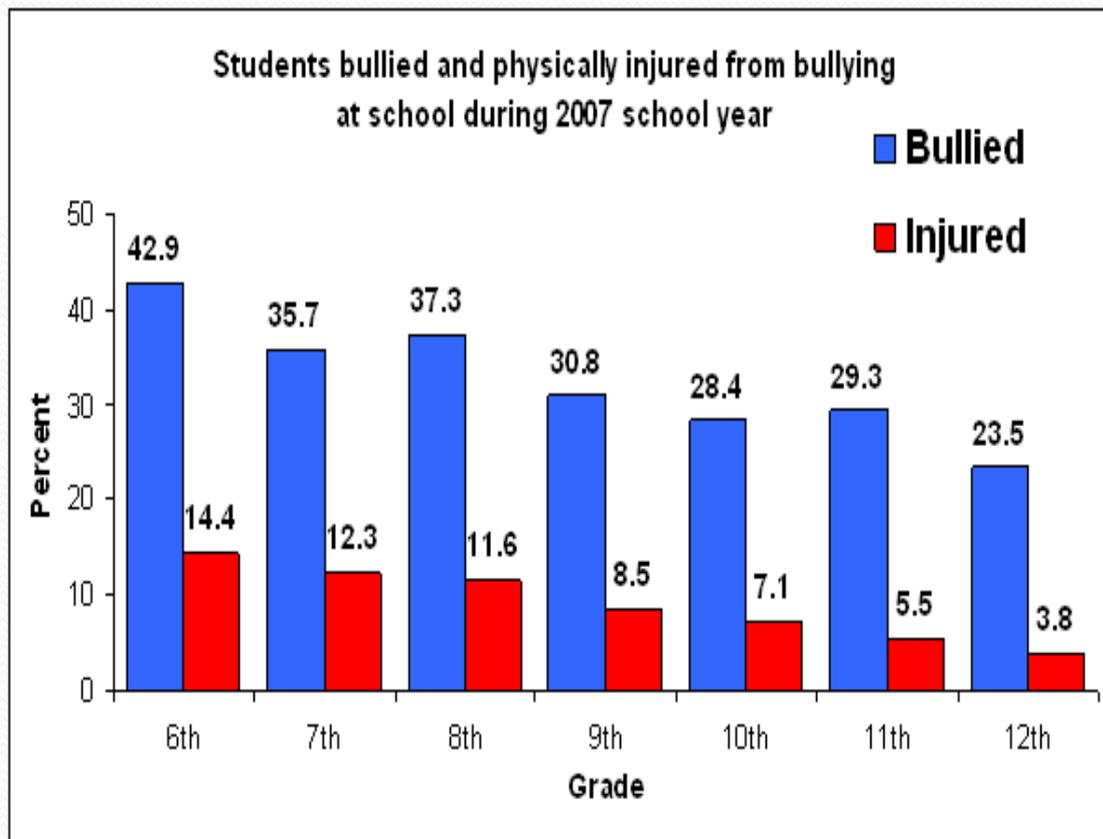
Bullying in Schools

- CRS is seeing an increasing number of requests for assistance in schools to address bullying issues associated with discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin
- CRS is also hearing from school officials who are concerned about incidents targeting students who are or are perceived to identify as LGBTQ, which has fueled acts of bullying, violence, and even suicide by some victims





Tensions and Conflicts in Schools



- Bullying in Schools

- 10% of students (age 12-18) report being targets of hate-related words (For example, regarding race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation)

- Violence in Schools

- 340 shootings since 1992²

¹ Source: Data from Table in Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2009; National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov>)

² www.schoolshootings.org

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