

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ERICK W. ZINSER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF BIAS MOTIVATED THREATS
DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Mayor and Council –

Please see this message from the Chief as it relates to documented hate crimes in our community.

- Victor

Considering the geo-political events that are occurring in the Middle East and the audience comments at recent council meetings, my staff and I have been closely monitoring the situation and its effects on the community we serve. In addition to gathering as much information through media reporting and continuing briefings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security, we have partnered with our task force officers assigned to federal agencies along with our partners at the state and county fusion centers to ensure that we have the most up to date information on potential threats that could affect members of our community.

I am pleased to report that historically and currently, the members of our community remain safe. We have not received any information, verified or not, that there are any active threats against any member of our community or the places in which they work, worship, or attend schools. We have provided constant updates to our uniformed operations team to prepare them and directed them to provide frequent extra patrols at our schools, places of worship, and any businesses that could be potential targets for radical actors.

A statistical analysis of our calls for service show no racially motivated incidents in our city since the start of the conflict, and communication with our school resource officers reveals that there have been no incidents at the schools related to the conflict either.

I want to assure you that we will continue to closely monitor the situation and remain vigilant for threats or incidents which may involve bias related attacks. The members of the Novi Police Department take hate crimes very seriously, and should an incident arise, it will be investigated fully, with proper charges being forwarded to the Oakland County Prosecutor. The safety of ALL Novi citizens and visitors remains my agency's top priority.