



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Commission on Human Relations

414 Grant Street – Room 908, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2464
(412) 255-2600 – Office / (412) 255-2288 Fax



PRESS RELEASE

February 27, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carlos Torres, MPA – Executive Director

Telephone: (412) 255-2600

Email: carlos.torres@pittsburghpa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh (PA) - The City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) warns that ethnic intimidation is illegal. Crimes that occur within the city limits that are motivated by hatred or malice because of race, religion or national origin are subject to more severe penalties. Victims of such bias-motivated crimes can sue for damages.

Immediately report acts of discrimination to the Commission at 412-255-2600.

Be advised:

- Unlawful ethnic intimidation in the workplace includes insults, taunting, or ethnic epithets made by supervisors or co-workers.
- Ethnic slurs or other verbal or physical conduct are illegal if they: 1) are severe or pervasive and create an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; 2) interfere with work performance, or 3) negatively affect job opportunities.
- Housing providers and places of public accommodation with “English-speaking only” rules are prohibited. These rules have a disparate impact national origin due to the close nexus of limited English proficiency. Employers with “English-speaking only” rules are lawful only in limited circumstances.
- Any person who burns or desecrates any religious symbol, or displays any such symbol or physical impression including but not limited to a Nazi Swastika or any manner of exhibit, shall be guilty of a summary offense punishable by a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), sixty (60) days in jail, or both by the Commission.

- Persons may file a complaint with the Commission to address discriminatory treatment regardless of immigration status.

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations is the city agency responsible for enforcing fair practices which prohibit employment and public accommodations discrimination based on age (40 or over), ancestry, color, disability, gender identity/expression, place of birth, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. In addition to the protected classes listed above, the Commission also enforces fair housing practices which prohibit discrimination because of familial status and status as victim of domestic violence.

###