

**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

**SUMMER STEPHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

A message from District Attorney Summer Stephan:

Dear Friends and Community,

I wish we could say that the hateful words and murderous actions in Charlottesville are a fluke or aberration, but we can't and we shouldn't view it as if we are at a safe distance in San Diego. The latest statistics from the California Department of Justice show an 11 percent increase in hate crimes in San Diego County. These are crimes that are motivated by bias, prejudice and hate.

Fighting hate crimes is a priority for me and the District Attorney team, just as they are a priority to our law enforcement partners. We have a team of experts who prosecute hate crimes and who understand the impact on victims. Whenever hateful words or motives are combined with criminal actions, this office will prosecute to the fullest extent allowable by the law.



We will not stand by and allow anyone to suffer abuse because of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or for any other reason. Please take time to understand the law that makes this conduct a crime. You can help by reporting a suspected hate crime if you see one. Hate crimes are defined by law as, “Crimes that are committed against individuals or groups or property based on the real or perceived race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or ethnicity of the victims.” These personal characteristics acting as a substantial factor in the motive for the crime perpetrator is what distinguishes hate crimes from other crimes.

What we saw in Charlottesville is a bunch of thugs, bullies and criminals masquerading behind the freedom of speech.

For more information about hate crimes, please visit [this page on the District Attorney’s website](#).