

P.O. Box triCity Tower

# triCity Mail

## Drop a dime

To the Editor:

We of the Monmouth County Human Relations Commission (MCHRC) are concerned that there are bias incidents that are not reported at the time of the event. The victim who has been intimidated may not know where or how to report these incidents or crimes. We believe that the sooner an incident is reported the less likely that it will give the people committing the incident both the tacit approval they are looking for and a chance to take the incident to the level of a crime.

The Monmouth County Human Relations Commission, the oldest such commission in the state, maintains a Bias Hotline for just this purpose, at 732-303-7666.

In conjunction with the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders and the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, this Bias Hotline helps us combat acts of discrimination and bigotry in the county and promote an environment that will make such acts unacceptable to the community.

For successful functioning, the Monmouth County Human Relations Commission needs input from all parts of the community. Participation in ongoing dialogues on diversity is the major way that we can prevent hurtful discrimination and harmful intimidation from also becoming overt acts of violence.

Our Bias Hotline should be well-known and used by all - those directly

affected by and those who witness acts of discrimination and bigotry - a sort of "911" number to ensure humanity and respect for each other. It is there to help the residents of our county who feel that they are victims of incidents or crimes because of race, color, religion, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or any other class protected under the N.J. Law Against Discrimination.

A call to the Bias Hotline call can get the right professionals involved before intimidation leads to violence. For more information, see our Web site at [www.visitmonmouth.com/humanrelations](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/humanrelations) or contact us at [mchrc@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:mchrc@co.monmouth.nj.us) or 732-308-3770.

We ask that you remember and use the MCHRC Bias Hotline number, 732-303-7666, before there is a higher level of physical or emotional harm committed.

Laurence M. Traub, Chairperson  
Monmouth County Human Relations  
Commission

**Get the right  
professionals  
involved before  
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