



WHAT IS TPD SAFE PLACE?

While Tucson is generally a safe and progressive city in the United States, crimes and discrimination related to the City's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning (LGBTQ) residents and visitors unfortunately still occur. The Tucson Police Department (TPD) is committed to the safety of all LGBTQ residents and visitors.

TPD SAFE PLACE signage is being displayed by local supporting community members, businesses, schools and organizations that work closely with the TPD in an effort to reduce anti-LGBTQ crimes, reduce LGBTQ student bullying, and encourage the reporting of LGBTQ crimes. These are also locations supporting safe and secure places for victims of anti-LGBTQ related crimes and harassment. Calling 911 and waiting for police to respond is essential for holding suspects accountable and reducing hate crimes and harassment in general.

In addition to the 911 police response to these incidents, the TPD has a group of LGBTQ liaison officers who promotes partnership efforts between the TPD and LGBTQ community and can be a resource for answers to questions you may have. E-mail Downtown.District@tucsonaz.gov with your questions and or requests.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the TPD SAFE PLACE is to provide the LGBTQ community with signage and resources that provide easily accessible safety information.

TPD SAFE PLACE is designed to further enhance the relationship between the TPD, the LGBTQ community, and local businesses, by providing TPD SAFE PLACE decals and signage to local businesses and organizations and encouraging those entities to clearly post them at the entrances to their premise as a symbol of safety for the victims of LGBTQ crime and a warning to those who commit those crimes. TPD SAFE PLACE also provides an instant and easy link to TPD and other LGBTQ resources.

Intersectionality: The Tucson Police Department recognizes that social categories such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, mental, physical, or sensory handicap, homelessness, marital status, age, parental status, gender, class or political ideology and the associated discrimination and disadvantage that may occur to an individual and/or group is all interconnected and must be addressed collectively instead of separately.

PARTICIPATE IN TPD SAFE PLACE

Displaying the TPD SAFE PLACE symbol at your premise carries some important responsibilities that will greatly assist in protecting LGBTQ victims of crime.

These LGBTQ victims will recognize the TPD SAFE PLACE symbol of safety that indicates your business, organization, school or premise is willing to assist and protect these victims. To make this concept effective the TPD would like you to instruct your staff, employees, supervisors, managers, teachers, volunteers, counselors and/or students, etc. of the following protocol:

- Please apply the TPD SAFE PLACE decal outside the front entrance of your establishment, building, room, etc. (approx. 3-5 feet high, if possible). If there is no glass at your front entrance, the TPD SAFE PLACE poster can be placed conspicuously inside your premise.
- Please allow these victims to enter and remain at your premise until police arrive.
- Please either call, or assist these victims in calling 911.

NOTE: Group/Individual training for TPD SAFE PLACE participants is available by e-mailing Lieutenant Corey Doggett at Corey.Doggett@tucsonaz.gov.

WHAT IS A BIAS CRIME?

The TPD tracks all crimes that occur within the city limits of Tucson. This tracking is conducted so that the TPD can identify problem areas within the City and direct patrol and/or investigative resources to reduce these incidents. The FBI also mandates statistical crime reporting from every law enforcement agency in the United States.

The TPD uses the following definitions to classify bias and bias-involved incidents:

Improper Bias: A pre-formed negative opinion or attitude motivated by prejudice about the perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation or beliefs, membership or activity in or on behalf of a labor organization or against a labor organization, physical or mental handicap, age, economic or social status, or citizenship of the victim (this is not an all-inclusive list).

Bias-based Incidents: A bias-based incident is an incident that is motivated in whole or in part by a subject's improper bias, but is lacking information to support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for a criminal violation (e.g., statements using racial slurs/hate remarks without commission of a suspected crime). Bias-based incidents often involve constitutionally protected expression that has not crossed a line into criminal conduct.

Hate Crime: A hate crime is a criminal offense against a person or property that is motivated in whole or in part by an offender's improper bias or the offender's improper bias against the perceived race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity of the victim. The expression of improper bias or hate in and of itself is not a crime, and the TPD is mindful of protecting freedom of speech and other civil liberties for all community members.

PLEASE NOTE: Someone calling you a derogatory name is not a crime. It is constitutionally protected free speech. If the comments are accompanied by threats, threatening behavior, or physical harm, it then becomes a crime.

LGBTQ SAFETY TIPS

Walking

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try and walk in well-lit areas, with other people around.
- Walk in groups, or with others nearby.
- Don't display or count your money where others can see you.
- Conceal your technology (cell phones, tablets, etc.).
- Be cautious when approached by strangers.
- If confronted by someone, try not to verbally engage with them. Drugs, alcohol, or mental illness may be driving their behaviors so your safest course is to disengage and not escalate the situation.
- If anyone attempts to rob you, either by threats or with a weapon, do not resist. It is not worth risking physical injury for the amount of money you may lose.

Driving

- Practice defensive driving.
- Don't compete with other drivers.
- Don't engage in insults and/or gestures with other drivers.
- Keep your distance from aggressive drivers.
- Report aggressive driving to 911.

Partying

- When leaving a party or a bar, travel in groups. Criminals often focus on lone pedestrians.
- Don't get in stranger's cars.
- Call a cab, sober friend, or family member to take you home. DUIs are dangerous to everyone, and they cost a lot of money.

Meeting People Online or through Dating Apps

- If meeting someone, tell your friends where you're going & describe the person you're with.
- Don't volunteer any of your personal information (date of birth, address, etc.).
- Meet your date in a public place.
- Try to find out as much about your date as possible before meeting them.
- If practical, record your date's vehicle description and license plate number.
- Save all of your e-mails and texts from the person you're meeting.
- If your date is making you uncomfortable, don't worry about politeness. LEAVE!
- If your date begins to stalk or harass you, tell them clearly to stop. If they don't, call 911.

REPORTING LGBTQ CRIMES

If you are a victim of, or a witness to a crime, please report the incident to the police, either DURING, or IMMEDIATELY AFTER it occurs BY CALLING 911. This will allow the police department to respond to, and investigate the incident. The more time that passes between the incident and the report to police, the more difficult it will be for police to conduct a thorough investigation, to include the collection of evidence.

The 911 operator needs quick and concise information, such as;

- **Were you injured?** The 911 operator will call medics while talking with you.
- **What happened?** Briefly describe the incident.
- **What was said?** Tell the 911 operator if the suspect(s) used words to indicate that the crime was motivated by bias.
- **Was a weapon involved?** Describe the type (gun, knife, etc.).
- **Description of suspects:** Age, race, height, weight and clothing description of the suspect(s).
- **Unusual or distinguishing characteristics:** Scars, marks, tattoos, piercings, accented speech, etc.
- **Suspect vehicle description:** Color, make, model, vehicle license.
- **Direction of travel:** Which way did they flee?

Even if you think the crime is insignificant, or that you don't want to bother the police over small issues, reporting crimes quickly allows police to:

- Respond immediately to the scene to prevent further harm to you or others.

- Collect evidence that could be destroyed if not discovered and collected quickly.
- Interview witnesses who may otherwise be gone if you delay your call to 911.
- Apprehend the suspect(s) quickly so they do not continue to victimize others.
- Determine if the suspect(s) are engaged in a pattern of previous and/or ongoing behavior that threatens the community.
- Increase community awareness of criminal activity in the area through media notification & alerts.
- Develop solutions and/or deterrents to reduce the crime by adding patrols to the area.

Your quick actions and reporting will help reduce crime in Tucson!

LGBTQ SAFE PLACE SIGNAGE REQUEST

SAFE PLACE Decals (4" X 6") or Posters (12" x 17") are provided FREE of charge to anyone requesting them and agreeing to the below listed pledge.

These decals and posters are specifically designed for businesses, schools and organizations to post at or near the front entrance to their premise as a symbol of safety for victims of crimes and as a warning to criminals. Individuals are also welcome to request SAFE PLACE decals or posters by submitting an e-mail request to Downtown.District@tucsonaz.gov.

Commitment Pledge

By making this commitment/pledge, you agree to use these decals/signs for their intended purpose by posting them on your premises. You further agree to instruct your organization's employees to assist the victims and/or witnesses to anti-LGBTQ crimes by calling the police on their behalf and allowing them to remain on your premise until police arrive.

There are LGBTQ safety and etiquette training resources available on the TPD Downtown District webpage at <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/police/downtown-district>. Please review them and contact any of the local Downtown District officers if you have any questions.