



Housing Status as Protected Class

Eugene City Council

October 21, 2020



Context/Agenda

- City of Eugene Human Rights Commission FY 2019 Work Plan:
“Advocate for making housing status a protected class.”
- Eugene Human Rights Code (EC 4.613 – 4.655)
- Hate and Bias Law
- How are other jurisdictions addressing this issue?
- Council options

City of Eugene Human Rights Code

- Enacted July 1994 (Ord. 19970)
- Applies to discrimination in employment, housing, city contracting and public accommodations;
- Protected classes include – race, religion, color, sex, national origin, ethnicity, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, source of income, association and disability;
- Violations are not a criminal offense. Remedies may include:
 - Informal mediation
 - Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)
 - Fair Housing Council of Oregon
 - Private action in court
 - Suspension, cancellation or termination of contract

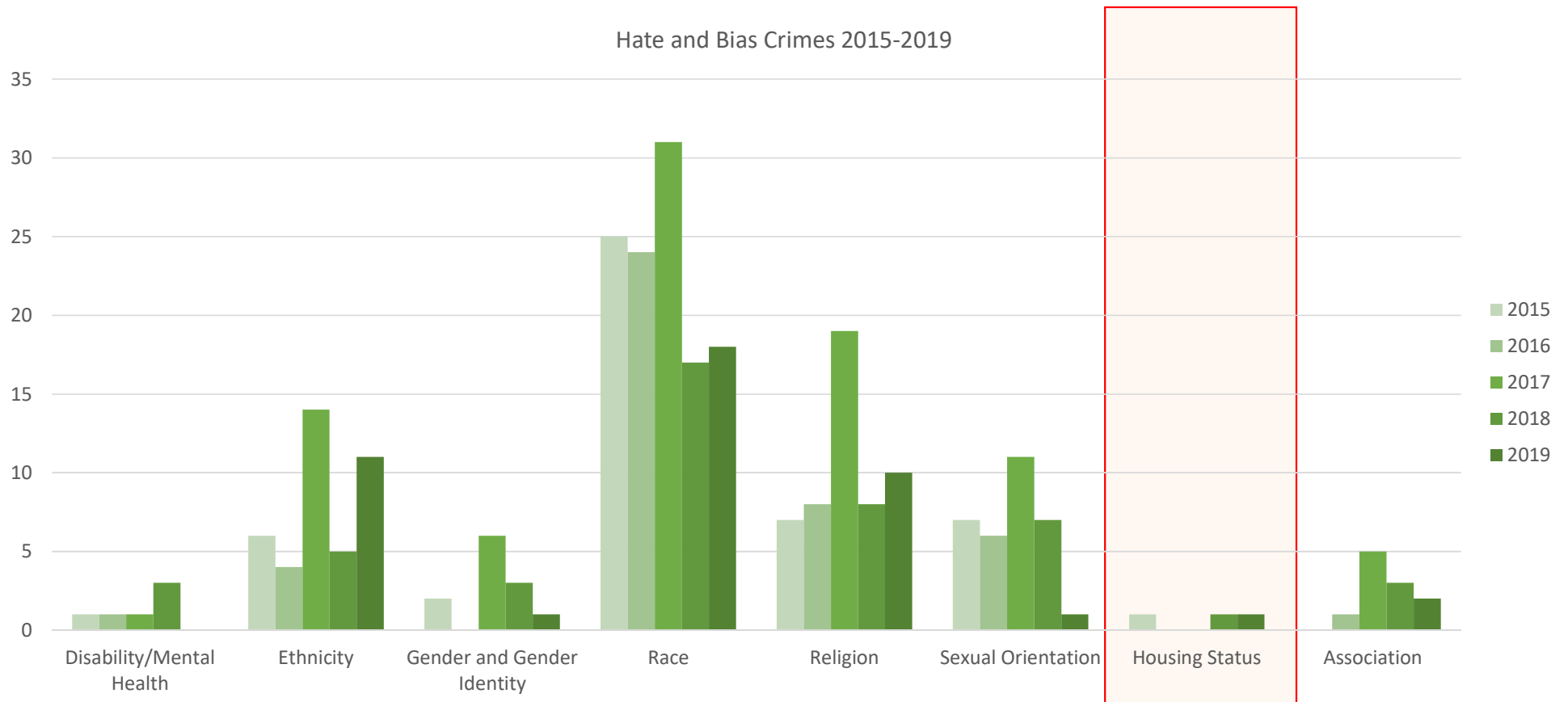
Hate and Bias Law

Intimidation in the Second Degree (EC 4.731)

Criminal offense based on perception of another's protected class status involving:

- tampering or interfering with property of another or threatening to cause substantial damage to property of another or their family;
- subjecting another to offensive physical contact;
- threatening serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting another or their family;

Hate and Bias Crimes Tracking and Reporting



Other Jurisdictions

Hate and bias crime laws

- Alaska, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, Cleveland, Seattle, Washington DC

Homeless Bill of Rights - Connecticut, Illinois, Rhode Island

- Establishes rights related to use of and free movement in public spaces, employment, emergency medical care, voting, protection of personal information, reasonable expectation of privacy in property and equal treatment by government agencies
- Oregon Right to Rest Act 2017

Possible Options

- Schedule a follow-up work session to respond to questions and requests for additional options/information, raised at this work session.
- Draft an ordinance amending the City's Human Rights Code to add housing status as a protected class and return for a work session to discuss it or schedule a public hearing.
- Direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance amending other sections of the Eugene Code, such as EC 4.731 that relates to hate and bias crimes, and either return for a work session to discuss the draft ordinance or schedule a public hearing.
- Take no action at this time.