



## **5 TIPS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO COUNTER PROTEST ACTION IN RESPONSE TO HATE AND BIAS MOTIVATED PROTESTS**

1. Issue a clear statement to leadership, line officers, and to any other collaborating law enforcement agencies that counter-demonstrators are exercising their First Amendment rights and that, absent a threat of violence or unlawful activity, police are not to act in opposition to that activity.
2. Identify a specific point of contact for counter-demonstrators and take affirmative steps to facilitate dialogue before, during and after counter-protests.
3. Meet with counter-protest organizers in advance of event to plan safe routes, dispersal plans, provide safety tips and answer any questions they might have about police response.
4. Establish a liaison (point of contact) within your leadership for ongoing dialogue throughout the day, should counter-protestors need help during the event.
5. Prohibit practices like blocking pedestrian egress, limiting the length of demonstrators' access to public space, and the use of chemical weapons or force to disperse a non-violent crowd.