



CITY OF RENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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City of Renton Police Department For Immediate Release

10/22/20

Community Project Leads to Assault and Vandalism Man Arrested for Harassment and Malicious Mischief

Renton, WA – One man is in custody after targeting artists and the mural they created in the Cascade neighborhood of Renton.

On September 29, 2020, the artist group was working on the mural, located near the roadway in the 11600 block of SE Petrovitsky Road. A man stopped his car in the street, raised a pistol, racked the slide, pointed it at the group, and yelled “all lives matter.”

One person said he thought the man was about to shoot them. Members of the group recognized the man as the same person who yelled “all lives matter” at them twice in the days leading up to the firearm incident. The car drove off and could not be located.

On October 9, 2020, a Renton officer was providing traffic control for the project and saw a different car stop alongside a female artist. A man in the car leaned out and said something to the artist. The officer could not hear the words, but the artist’s reaction was clearly fearful. The officer stopped the suspect’s car a short distance away and learned the man yelled “f*** you!” several times at the woman. The investigation later showed the two incidents were unrelated.

On October 13 2020, the mural was defaced with the words, “Trump,” “LAM” and “BOO.” Security video captured a person doing something at the mural during the previous evening but the video quality was not good enough to make out any details.

Officers checked several law enforcement databases and discovered that the night before the defacing, the King County Sheriff’s Office investigated a reported vandalism where the letters “LAM” defaced the window of a Fairwood pet store. Evidence from the Fairwood case led officers to additional information and evidence that identified a 49-year-old Fairwood man as the suspect in the September 29 firearm incident.

Officers arrested the suspect at his residence yesterday and booked him into jail for Harassment and Malicious Mischief 2nd Degree.

The mural was commissioned by the City of Renton earlier this year. It was paid for with grant funding in collaboration with the Renton Municipal Arts Commission. The mural's purpose and theme is to build community identity with the residents of the Cascade and Benson Hills neighborhoods.

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