



City of Edmonds Media Release

EDMONDS POLICE DEPARTMENT ~ 250th Avenue North

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To: Media

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Edmonds Police Arrest Suspect in Vandalism Incident

A swastika spray painted on a car at Westgate Chapel leads detectives to interview and arrest.

(Edmonds, WA)

Edmonds Police have arrested a suspect in a Sunday morning vandalism of a vehicle at Westgate Chapel. In the incident, a swastika was spray painted on the side of a vehicle belonging to one of the church members. Prior to the incident being reported, an alert EPD sergeant working security at the church recognized the suspect from previous encounters, and saw that there was spray paint on his fingers. After the victim reported the damage, the suspect was located in the area and interviewed. Evidence was collected from his vehicle after permission was given to search it. There was no probable cause to make an arrest at that time.

Early Wednesday, detectives interviewed the suspect again at the Edmonds Police Department. As a result of that interview, the twenty-one year old Edmonds man was booked into the Snohomish County Jail for Malicious Mischief 3rd degree. Charges were determined after a thorough review of the suspect's interview, RCW 9A.36.080, and a briefing of the case with a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office.

Chief Compaan was immediately made aware of the arrest and responded:

"I continue to share the concern of our community that we have had another incident of this nature. It is important to know that Edmonds PD will continue to investigate each instance and make an arrest where appropriate. The symbol used in this crime does nothing but signify hate. In this case, the suspect was booked for the crime of Malicious Mischief based on evidence available to us, and after consultation with the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. Our investigation continues."

Detectives are also looking into whether the most recent incident is in anyway related to the similar events from April that occurred in the Westgate and Esperance neighborhoods, as well as the Madrona School incidents. The suspect was not a student or employee at the school. It is also important to note that there may be one or more suspects responsible for these other acts, and they may or may not be related to the Westgate Chapel incident.

Detectives will continue their work on this investigation. If you have any information please call the Edmonds PD tip line at 425-771-0212 or epdtips.edmondswa.gov