

ROME POLICE DEPARTMENT

★ A NYS ACCREDITED POLICE DEPT. ★

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NEWS RELEASE

On Wednesday, October 7, 2021, members of the Rome Police Department patrol division responded to the three hundred block of West Thomas Street for a report of a criminal mischief complaint.

The victim identified three vehicles that had been vandalized with spray paint. While officers investigated the incident, information was received, from a local reporter who contacted the police department, inquiring about "hate speech spray painted on a garage." This garage was said to be somewhere on Howland Avenue. Officers then responded to Howland Avenue and discovered there was, in fact, a racially derogatory comment spray painted on a garage in the three hundred block of Howland Ave. It was after this discovery patrol was made aware of a video circulating Facebook regarding the vandalized garage.

In addition, the victim's residence on West Dominick Street had been burglarized where there was significant damage to the inside the home.

The Rome Police Department was not notified until after the Facebook video was posted and the information regarding the vandalized garage had already been given to the media.

This case is currently under investigation. A person of interest has been developed and is believed to be involved in all three incidents. This does not appear to have been a random act.

Residents and businesses in and around the area of the three hundred block of Howland Ave, the three hundred block of West Thomas Street, and the 500 block of West Dominick Street are encouraged to review any personal home surveillance. We are looking for a suspicious person in those areas on October 7, between the times of 00:00 and 09:00am. If anyone has any information regarding these incidents they are encouraged to contact the Rome Police Department's Tip Line at (315) 339-7744 or Mohawk Valley Crime Stoppers at 1(866)730-8477 or www.p3tips.com.