



# PORT ORCHARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### PORT ORCHARD POLICE RESPOND TO ALLEGED RACIALLY-MOTIVATED VANDALISM

(Port Orchard, WA) The Port Orchard Police Department is investigating an incident of vandalism with an alleged racially-biased motivation. Officers and detectives ask the public to provide any information that may help identify the suspect. .

In the early morning hours of March 31<sup>st</sup>, an unknown suspect approached a home in the 2100 block Caleb Pl SE. The suspect used red spray paint to write the letters, "AZN," on the victim's vehicle and caused other damage. The suspect is described as 5'02" – 5'06" with a thin build. At the time, the suspect was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt with black pants.

While it is still too early to determine if the crime is motivated by hate or racial bias, the Port Orchard Police Department takes all allegations seriously.

"Hate is not tolerated here. We stand with the AAPI community to ensure they feel safe and welcomed in their homes and in this City," said Chief Matt Brown. "In our nation, we have seen an increase in violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We will not allow this to happen here."

Detectives continue to review video surveillance and are canvassing neighbors for additional information, photographs, and or videos of the incident. Members of the public with information may contact Det. Beth Deatherage at (360) 876-1700 or [edeatherage@cityofportorchard.us](mailto:edeatherage@cityofportorchard.us). Tips may also be left anonymously at that number or through 911.



**For Immediate Release – 1000 hrs, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**