



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday, July 16, 2024**

No 911 were made within the City of Ruston on the Fourth of July. This is astounding as it is unusual for Ruston to have no 911 calls on any given day. Thousands of event-goer's and their vehicles pass through and park within Ruston on this day, and since 2022 this Fourth of July was the second time there were no 911 calls.

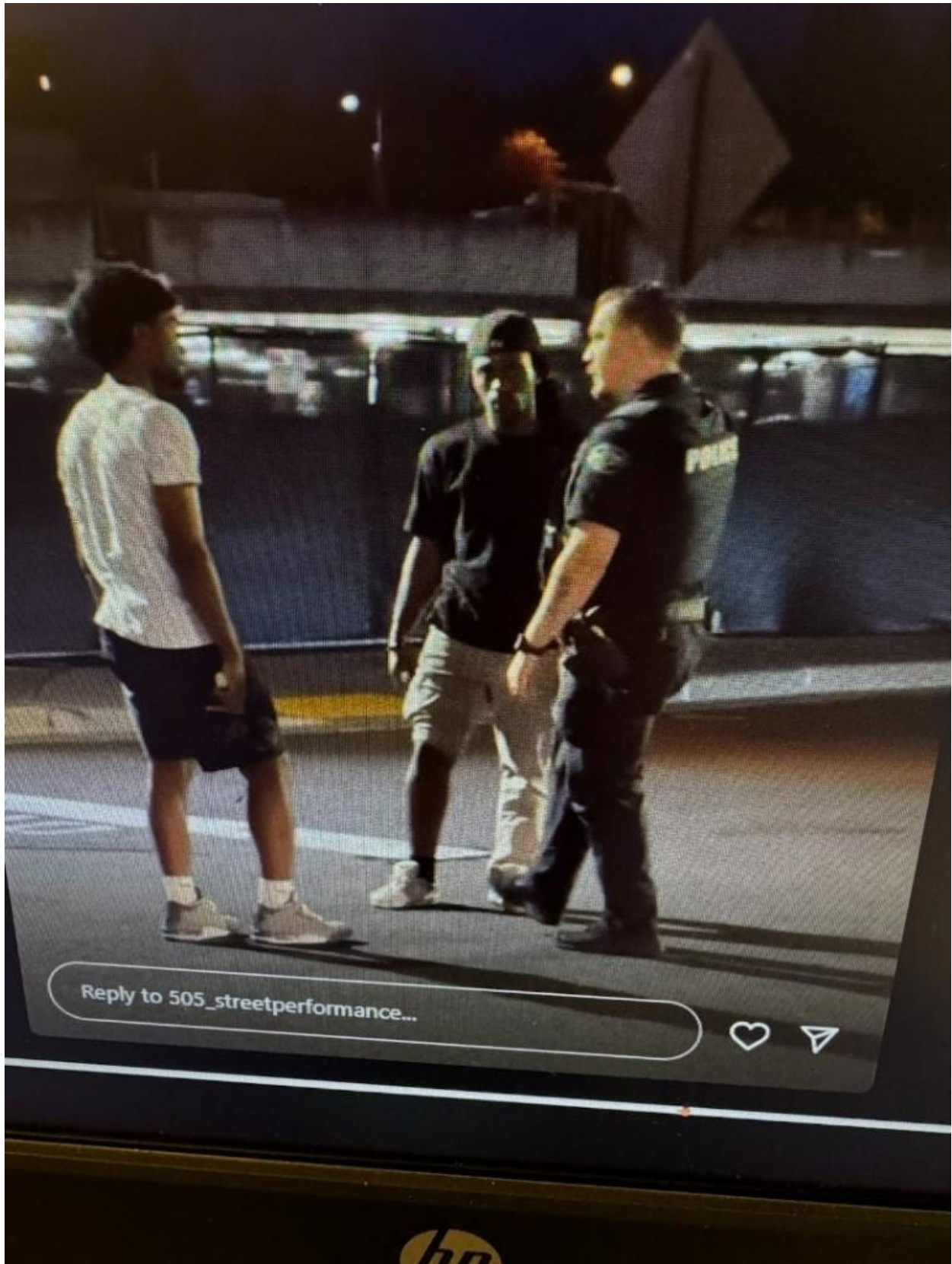
Sarah Jane Ramey set a string of fires in the Puget Sound region between late December 2021 and late January 2022, two of them resulting in fatalities. Ramey was charged in February 2022 with 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, and 17 counts of arson. Last week, Ramey was found guilty of first-degree murder and all but three of the arson counts. She was also found guilty of burglary, identity theft and theft of a motor vehicle.

The most impacted Ruston family was the Sharkey family, whose house was a total loss and could have easily resulted in their deaths. I was recently in contact with Mr. Sharkey and they hope to break ground on their rebuild sometime this summer.

While conducting a technique called a "social contact," which is an intentional act to ascertain a person's intentions without grounds for detention, Corporal Wayne Lake identified Sarah Ramey as she sat in a vehicle at the credit union for no apparent reason. Using available residential video from one of the arsons, Corporal Lake immediately identified the suspect as Sarah Ramey and notified BATFE arson task force. This information was the critical piece needed to allow investigators to conduct surveillance on and link the forensic evidence to Sarah Ramey.

In late 2017, the Department purchased three 2018 Dodge Charger patrol cars. As I previously reported, these three and two of 2016 Ford Explorers are past the mid-life cycle and I expressed my concern for impending major component breakdowns and repair cost. This week, we learned that one Dodge Charger is in need of a new motor and will cause \$10k-\$12k for replacement.

We are already looking for the most efficient replacements for these two generations of the fleet and we estimate the 2016's will need replacement within the next 18-20 month, with the 2018's following soon thereafter.



Prepared by Nestor Bautista