



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, March 20, 2023**

Chief of Police:

In the early morning hours of March 12th, shots were fired in the parking lot of the Ruston Market. Officers recovered approximately 50 shell casings in two separate areas, and the Market's surveillance video footage reveals that unknown persons appeared to be shooting at one another. The Market's building was struck by several projectiles and there are no known injuries.

All physical evidence will be submitted to the State Patrol Crime Lab for examination, but we are not confident any leads will be generated. Additionally, the crime analyst at South Sound 911 is monitoring websites, social media, and blogs for possible clues.

Tacoma is now experiencing the seasonal increase in racer intersection "take-overs" and are requesting allied agency participation in the same anti-racer task force of years past. Ruston Police will again be members of the task force.

The Department has met with the ownership of the Ruston Market to address the continuing problems in the garage and roof parking lot. They agree that physical barriers for the facility would prevent after-hours crimes, but they are currently involved in a legal action with the previous owners over disputed user rights. Ruston officers are now enforcing after-hours trespassing with zero tolerance.

A house fire occurred last weekend at the 5600 block of N. 49th. We defer to the Fire Chief for more information, but our officers are actively watchful for any information that might indicate a crime was committed.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista