



City of Grinnell

...Jewel of the Prairie

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Michael McClelland
Chief of Police

Media Release

Date: November 2, 2022

Reference: **Media Release: City of Grinnell and Grinnell College Offer Reward to Stop Acts of Racial Based Harassment & Vandalism**

Grinnell, IA- The City of Grinnell, Grinnell College, and the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office are partnering to offer a **\$2,000** reward for information leading to charges being filed against those responsible for any acts of racially based harassment and vandalism in Poweshiek County.

Tips can be submitted to the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office Communications Center, **641-623-5602**. Submissions may remain anonymous.

GPD is currently conducting active investigations into two reported incidents of racial harassment. We are not releasing the names of parties involved or any other details at this time due to the ongoing investigations.

Additionally, the Office of the Chief of Police was notified by college officials that since the beginning of the 2022 Fall semester, similar incidents of racial harassment and vandalism have occurred against students, both on and off campus. None of these incidents were reported to GPD for further investigation. Any information regarding these incidents should be directed to Grinnell College Campus Safety at 641-269-4600.

In response to reported incidents of racial harassment, GPD has partnered with Grinnell College, City Officials, Campus Safety, and the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office, to make the safety and security of our students and citizens our highest priority. Additional patrols and other resources have been deployed to deter and eliminate any further incidents.

We are asking for the community's help:

- Report racist harassment and vandalism directly to Grinnell Police at 641-623-5602 or 911 as soon after the event as possible
- Call the Grinnell Police Department at the same number if you know the individual(s) involved
- Photograph license plate numbers of vehicles harassing citizens to give to police

The members of the Grinnell Police Department and the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office are committed to serve and protect all members of our community. We strongly condemn these despicable acts of hatred, intolerance, ignorance, and racism. We are committed to finding those responsible and holding them accountable in accordance with Iowa law.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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