



CITY OF ROHNERT PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

Tim Mattos, Director

July 27, 2021

The Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety is currently investigating the fire in front of the home of Council member Willie Linares which occurred on the evening of the July 4th, 2021. After several weeks of thoroughly investigating this incident, we have exhausted our leads and have not identified a suspect. The investigation has included interviews with neighbors, and reviewing video footage from several different cameras in the area. We believe, based on the information obtained during the investigation, that the individual shown in the video exiting the van, is responsible for the fire. We are appealing to the public for their assistance in identifying the vehicle and the individual.

Allow me to provide a timeline for the incident. Dispatch received a call from the residence at 10:47 PM stating their recycle bin had been set on fire. Fire personnel arrived on-scene within the minute and were able to extinguish the fire before other structures or vehicles were damaged. During the investigation, Detectives have been able to establish that the starting of this fire was an intentional act.

At approximately 10:22 PM four vehicles were seen driving north on the street of Councilmember Linares' residence, including a white sedan and a white Jeep which drove past the residence. Fifteen seconds later, a large commercial white van (possibly an Econoline Van) stopped directly in front of the trash bins which were in the street. Video from a neighbor shows an individual exiting the driver's door of the large van and hurriedly moving around the rear of the van and disappearing. Approximately 30 seconds later, the individual is seen coming back into the video and re-entering the vehicle through the driver's door. The van then speeds off.

The video shows the recycling bin starting on fire about six and a half minutes later; it became fully enflamed within about 45 seconds. A subject walking on the street saw the bin on fire and knocked on the door of the residence to let the occupants know it was burning.

The Department of Public Safety is currently asking for the community's assistance with this investigation due to the intentional act of the subject. The Department has requested technical assistance from the FBI to determine whether the photo showing the van in question can be enhanced. The FBI nor any other agencies are currently assisting with the actual investigation. The Department is looking for information in an effort to contact the subject responsible for this fire and attempt to determine the motivation for this crime.

If you have any information regarding this incident, please contact Detective Casey Quinn at (707) 588-3514, Rohnert Park Dispatch at (707) 584-2600, or email crimetips@rpcity.org. If you wish to remain anonymous, please call the "Crime Tip-Line" at (707) 584-COPS

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