

Kamela Harris, Esq.
District Attorney

I am writing on behalf of the Excelsior District Improvement Association(EDIA), a neighborhood non-profit. I am the President of EDIA. At our Jan. 26 meeting, the membership of EDIA voted unanimously to authorize me to write to the District attorney's office concerning [Ingleside Police Report Number 100062758](#), wherein a suspect was recently arrested for offenses as described below in Ingleside Captain Lazar's newsletter:

Captain's Message:

An incredible graffiti arrest made in the Excelsior! The mural painted on the side of the Central Drug Store at Santa Rosa and Mission has been targeted for months now, including having a swastika painted on the mural.

Last night, thanks to community members, store employees and Officers Carrasco and Dominguez, a 40 year old resident (it just happened to be his 40th birthday yesterday) of the Excelsior was captured after he had spray painted on the mural. This individual has been linked to numerous graffiti incidents on the mural and today was charged by the District Attorney's Office on all counts of felony vandalism!

06:02 pm 4400 blk Mission Graffiti, Assault with Chemical

Officers Dominguez and Carrasco were conducting a traffic stop when they were alerted by bystanders to a man who had just defaced a nearby mural. This particular mural had been the target of several recent vandalism's. The officers gave chase and caught the man. The suspect admitted to spray painting the mural today and several other previous times. One witness also said that as she told the suspect to stop the vandalism, he walked over and sprayed the paint at her from close range. The man was arrested for felony vandalism, assault with a chemical, and resisting arrest. Report number 100062758.

We are writing to you to express our concern as a community for the offenses allegedly perpetrated by this individual, to request that you keep us abreast of the disposition of the case and to ask that no disposition of the case be made without first allowing input from this community. The allegations concerning this case arise from a mural that was recently painted in the heart of our neighborhood.

The mural evolved out of the considerable efforts of our residents and a major expenditure of both volunteer and paid labor. The mural celebrates the history, present and possible future of our neighborhood, its evolution and particularly its profound multi-ethnic aspect. The person(s) who vandalized the mural did so repeatedly and with a decidedly racist bent. Our lovely mural about neighborhood unity, was turned into a billboard for hate. And it worked! His many racist defacements made many people feel unsafe, and bewildered the children who had worked on it. That is a terrible thing to have to explain to a child. The appearance of a swastika two days before Christmas, was especially upsetting and certainly felt as if it were calculated to be so.

We understand that the suspect that was apprehended is reputed to be mentally ill. We are sympathetic about this, to a point. We hope that mental and emotional help can be provided, but we desire that there be consequences for his actions. It required many tens, perhaps hundreds of hours of labor to remedy the numerous repeated defacement's. We are not talking about a fifteen year old writing some illegible script on a blank wall. We perceive the attack as an assault on something fundamental that good people have attempted to create here and we therefore urge you to explore the case with a gravity befitting their disturbing context.

We ask that you consult with us as to restitution that may be appropriate for the costs and many hours of extra labor that the offenses necessitated as well as other punishment that may be appropriate. Thank you in advance for your willingness to accommodate our concerns.

Sincerely.

Jacqueline Cash
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