



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



Incident

DATE/TIME: Sunday 2/21/16

LOCATION: Holy Cross Church & Calvary Episcopal Church

TOPIC: Church Vandalism

CASE NUMBER: 16S-01539 and 16S-01540

INFORMATION:

On Sunday 2/21/16, Santa Cruz Police Officers responded to two incidents of vandalism that occurred at Holy Cross Church on High Street and Calvary Episcopal Church on Center Street.

Santa Cruz Police Officers responded to a report of vandalism at 6:45 am on Sunday 2/21/16 at Holy Cross Church. A short while later at 7:10 am, SCPD was dispatched to the Calvary Episcopal Church for a similar report of vandalism. In each case, the custodian had come into work to find that light blue paint had been splashed in an area near and on the entrance of the church.

Paint was spilled on the steps leading up to the doorway and on the door frame. Paint smears in the shape of a hand could be seen as part of the vandalism that defaced the outside entrance of each church. It does not appear that the suspect(s) entered either building.

The initial investigation revealed that the crimes occurred between Saturday 9pm and 6:30am on Sunday. Currently, there is no suspect information. The Santa Cruz Police Department is looking for any video surveillance and possible witnesses in the area. SCPD Officers are increasing patrols around the churches.

Holy Cross Church and Calvary Episcopal Church have historical and cultural significance to our community. These acts of vandalism are offensive and disrespectful. Both cases are considered a hate crime because the vandalism was targeted at a place of worship.

Anyone with information relative to the suspect's identity is encouraged to contact the Santa Cruz Police Department Investigation Unit at (831) 420-5820. Tipsters can also leave an anonymous tip via the methods below.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

PHOTO 1 from Holy Cross Church



PHOTO 2 from Holy Cross Church



Photo 3 from Calvary Episcopal Church

