



News Release
Ashland Police Department
www.ashlandpolice.us
Douglas A. Goodman, Chief
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021

For Immediate Release

Ashland PD Investigates Posting of Hate Symbol Leaflets

On Sunday, January 17, 2021 at approximately 6:40 a.m., officers patrolling the Railroad Avenue area of Town discovered several leaflets posted on businesses displaying a swastika and text stating "We are everywhere".

While there are currently no other reports of vandalism or criminal behavior, Ashland officers collected the leaflets to document the incident and continue to pursue further information. APD has also shared this incident with our state and federal law enforcement partners in case this incident has connections to recent regional events. A private video camera system captured the images of several individuals lurking around the downtown corridor just after 3:00 a.m. APD asks that any business in the downtown Ashland corridor that has a video surveillance system to review it for any footage of value to this investigation that was captured between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.

Ashland Mayor Steve Trivett said, *"On behalf of the Town, I want to reply to those who littered our Town: We will pick up the trash you dropped. Ashlanders will never be intimidated or influenced by any of the sour and sick extremisms that desire power yet deserve none. In Ashland we reserve our 'extremisms' for compassion, fellowship, and respect for others."*

Ashland Police Chief Doug Goodman said, *"This action is despicable. This brand of hate and division has no place in Ashland or anywhere else. We will continue to investigate this case and pursue enforcement actions as allowed by the Code of Virginia."* APD would like to thank the Hanover County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in this matter.

Anyone with information about this incident, please contact the Ashland Police Department at 804-365-6140 or leave a tip at <https://www.ashlandva.gov/224/Crime-Tips>. Anyone providing crime tip information can remain anonymous.

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