

Harassment Incident at Smith Field Prompts Calls for Respect, Compassion, Humanity

Half Moon Bay, CA – A recent reported harassment incident in the parking lot at Half Moon Bay’s Smith Field Park has City officials outraged, and calling for the community to redouble their efforts to be inclusive and understanding of those who are less fortunate.

According to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, last Monday evening at about 10:35 pm after an evening softball game, the suspect’s truck backed up to the victim’s van in the dirt parking lot at Smith Field Park. The suspect then intentionally accelerated his vehicle while remaining stopped next to the victim’s van, causing gravel to be thrown onto the victim’s van, breaking one of its windows and damaging the exterior. As the victim called 911, the suspects departed. The Sheriff’s Office responded to the scene and is investigating the incident to determine who may have committed this crime. The victim in the van is known to be an un-housed person.

“This kind of callous violence has no place in Half Moon Bay,” said Mayor Debbie Ruddock. “Our community stands for compassion, humanity, and fairness for all people. I know that those in Half Moon Bay and the Coastsides join me in denouncing attempts to intimidate, threaten, or otherwise marginalize any members of our community. I also want to assure the community that the Sheriff’s Office is presently investigating this attack, and with a goal that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.”

Mayor Ruddock also reiterated that Half Moon Bay is committed to being a diverse, accepting, and welcoming community which is supportive of all people, regardless of housing status, nationality, religion, or culture. The City maintains a policy of zero tolerance for hatred, bullying, violence, and prejudice, and the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff are dedicated to treating everyone with respect – and urge all community members to do the same.

“Supporting and assisting those who are less fortunate is the right thing to do to help Half Moon Bay be a better, stronger, and more successful community,” added Mayor Ruddock.

Anyone who has information regarding this incident is asked to call the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700 or Detective Richard Deschler at 650-363-4881 or RDeschler@smcgov.org.

“The San Mateo County Sheriff’s stands strong alongside the City of Half Moon Bay in a shared commitment to the fair and equal treatment of all victims and the pursuit of anyone who preys on them,” said Half Moon Bay Police Bureau Chief, Captain Rebecca Albin.

The City has a long tradition of acceptance and respect for all people in Half Moon Bay, so that they feel accepted and safe. This kind of incident, which is uncommon in Half Moon Bay, points to the need for community members to redouble their individual efforts to communicate and practice zero tolerance of prejudice, racism, bigotry, hatred, bullying, and violence, and to speak and act with respect for all persons.

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The City of Half Moon Bay, located 28 miles south of San Francisco, is a community of about 12,500 people situated on the Peninsula between forested hills and some of the most beautiful coastlines that California has to offer. Its historic downtown is home to numerous shops, art galleries, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and other businesses, and its celebrated beaches and parks are wonders of nature, accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. With its many activities and events, beautiful natural scenery, old-town charm, and abundance of retail and commercial services, Half Moon Bay is a regional destination. www.hmbcity.com