

ROSEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

News Release For Immediate Release

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Suspect Arrested and Charged in Bias-Motivated Threats of Violence Crimes

On July 23, 2020, Kevin Jay Karjalahti, 49 of Roseville, was charged with 3 counts of felony threats of violence ([MN Stat 609.713](#)). Karjalahti is suspected of leaving notes threatening acts of violence and arson at homes of residents with signs posted supporting Black Lives Matter or messages of inclusion.

Between May 29 and June 1, 2020, four threatening notes were left at residences, three in Roseville and one in St. Paul. The penmanship and content of the four notes were similar and appeared to be written by the same person.

- On May 30, a resident in the area of Fernwood and Roma Avenue reported a note placed in their front door stating it would be in their best interest to remove their Black Lives Matter sign because “payback is coming.”
- On May 30, a second note was found at a residence near Hamline and County Road B2 stating they should take down their sign or “you and your home will burn real quiet while you sleep in it.”
- The morning of June 1, a resident in the area of County Road B and Hamline Avenue found a note on their vehicle that read, “Your House Burns Next.” An “All are Welcome Here” yard sign was damaged.
- On June 1, a nearby St. Paul resident found similar notes threatening arson and violence.

Detectives submitted the notes to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension’s Forensic Laboratory for analysis. Latent prints matching Kevin Jay Karjalahti’s fingerprints were found on two letters. Detectives compared Karjalahti’s handwriting to each of the notes and found several distinct similarities.

On July 22, 2020, Karjalahti was arrested by the Roseville Police Department. Detectives executed a search warrant of his residence on the 1700 block of Fernwood. The case was presented to the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office and on July 23, 2020, charges were filed. The cases remain an active and on-going investigation. No additional details are available at this time.

The Roseville Police Department recognizes the fear and trauma crimes motivated by hate and bias cause for those targeted, especially for persons of color. The department will continue to thoroughly investigate all incidents and crimes that may be motivated by hatred or other biases. We will seek justice for anyone affected by hate or bias-motivated crimes and are committed to building a safe and livable community for all residents and visitors.

Ways to Report Hate Crimes:

- For crimes in progress, call 9-1-1 immediately
- If an incident has already occurred and immediate danger is over, call 651-767-0640
- Online tips may be submitted at www.cityofroseville.com/3194/Crime-Tips
- Reports of discrimination or bias can also be reported to the [Minnesota Department of Human Rights](#).

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