



**NEWS
RELEASE**

City of Martinez
Martinez Police Department
925.372.3440
525 Henrietta Street

July 5, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Vandalism of BLM Mural Investigation

Contact: Chief Manjit Sappal

On July 4th, community members obtained a permit from the City to paint Black Lives Matter on Court Street in downtown Martinez. Once the mural was completed, an unidentified white male and white female arrived. While the male made comments to a group of onlookers his companion began painting over the mural with black paint. At one point she made a statement that this was not, "...happening in my town." She also asked the male to get her another can of paint to continue with the act of vandalism. It appeared that the couple came to the mural with cans of paint and a roller with the specific purpose of vandalizing over the mural.

The community spent a considerable amount of time painting this mural only to have the suspects destroy it by dumping and rolling paint over part of the message. The incident was captured on video and posted on YouTube. Please see the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLuESd7zidA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CCPwY8Eh3GP/?igshid=1bz0cg6xz8ht1>

MPD was notified and by the time we arrived the suspects were gone. A witness provided a photograph of the suspect's vehicle which was described as a Nissan pickup truck with the word "NICOLE" on the right side of the tailgate in silver lettering. The truck has a

camper shell and the license plate is 52701B1. A photo of the vehicle was captured:



The case is currently under investigation and if any members of the public can identify the male and female involved in this incident please call our Dispatch Center at 925-372-3440 with the information.

The community spent a considerable amount of time putting the mural together only to have it painted over in a hateful and senseless manner. The City of Martinez values tolerance and the damage to the mural was divisive and hurtful. Please help us identify those that are responsible for this crime, so they can be held accountable for their actions.