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PRESS RELEASE

Date: 09/24/2021

Case Number: 21ES006018

On September 23, 2021, the Essex Police Department received a complaint of a theft and vandalism from the Essex/Westford School District. Specifically, it was reported that sometime overnight on September 22nd, unknown individual(s) had stolen the Black Lives Matter flag from the flag pole at Hiawatha School and cut the rope in the process.

Investigation of the incident and review of video from the school has not produced any leads. The culprit(s), if identified, could face two misdemeanor charges of Larceny and Unlawful Mischief, as well as a hate crime enhancement if proven to be racially motivated.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Essex Police Department at 802-878-8331.

Issued by: Ron Hoague, Chief of Police