



Borough of State College  
"A Home Rule Municipality"

## STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JOHN F. GARDNER  
Chief of Police



### MEDIA RELEASE

April 16, 2021

### Hate Crime Investigation

21SC05874

On Friday, April 16, 2021, at 2:35 p.m. the defacing of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. mural at 131 South Fraser Street was reported to the State College Police Department (SCPD).

The suspects defaced the mural by stenciling in a red substance over the image of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. PATRIOTFRONT.US with an insignia below. This crime is being investigated as a hate crime in which under Pennsylvania law is called Ethnic Intimidation. This hate crime occurred during the overnight hours on April 16, 2021.

Attacks through hate and hate based symbolism has no place in the Borough of State College and will not be tolerated. The police department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for defacing the mural.

"I can assure the community that the SCPD is utilizing every tool available to identify and hold accountable the persons who committed this hate crime." -State College Assistant Police Chief, Matt Wilson

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza and mural is a cherished memorial and a symbol for the State College community that Dr. King's fight for social justice lives on in our community. To deface that mural is an attack on the pillars of our community, including our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion." -State College Borough Manager, Tom Fountaine

This investigation continues and we are urging anyone who may have information regarding this incident to contact the State College Police Department at (814) 234-7150, by [email](#) or submit an [anonymous tip](#) through our website.