

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

July 13th, 2021

HATE CRIME & VANDALISM ARREST

On March 17th, 2021, a resident of the South Bay was driving his vehicle in the area of 223rd Street and Western Avenue when an unprovoked attack occurred. The suspect drove his motorcycle up alongside the victim's vehicle as they were driving W/B 223rd Street and hit the passenger-side mirror causing damage. The victim followed the suspect into a nearby residential area. The suspect stopped on his motorcycle, and walked over to the victim's vehicle yelling a racial slur specific to the victim's Asian ethnicity, and then kicked the driver's-side mirror and the driver's door causing more damage to the victim's vehicle. The suspect then fled. Officers completed a detailed report and obtained video evidence of a possible suspect.



Thomas Bangs
32 years

On March 23rd, 2021, a crime bulletin was released of an image from the video evidence, and was promptly disseminated to our Patrol officers.

On March 30th, 2021, Patrol officers were on an unrelated traffic stop when they observed the same suspect on his motorcycle drive by their traffic stop. Officers immediately recognized this was the suspect from this earlier crime. They quickly cleared their traffic stop and went after the suspect. Officers attempted a traffic stop of the suspect, and the suspect refused to stop so a pursuit was initiated. During the pursuit, the suspect collided with an unrelated vehicle in an intersection after the suspect ran a stop sign. The suspect was taken into custody, identified, and arrested. He is currently awaiting trial for the Felony Vandalism, Hate Crime allegation, Evading Police Officers, and Resisting Arrest charges by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.



This investigation is being conducted under the command of Torrance Police Special Operations Bureau. If you have been a victim of this type of crime, or similar crimes by this suspect, please contact your local authorities to report the incident.



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