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CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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UPDATE: Caldwell Police Detectives have been working diligently on the recent vandalism case involving graffiti at Caldwell High School. At this time, detectives no longer believe the incident to be motivated by hate but rather an act of intimidation between two rival Hispanic criminal street gangs from Caldwell. Detectives are basing this off of evidence, video, and other factors discovered in the course of the investigation.

Detectives believe that the “white power” tagging was a diversion tactic used by the gang to avoid law enforcement detection and was possibly done to exploit the recent protest at Caldwell High School. It is common for gang members to vandalize property in their attempt to create fear and intimidation within the community.

We now believe eight people participated in the vandalism, arriving in two separate vehicles. The first four arrived in a white four door passenger car. The second group of four arrived shortly after, in a dark colored truck or SUV.

“I am proud of the investigative effort given by our detectives in this matter, who quickly determined this incident to not be a hate crime. Unfortunately, this incident has already affected the lives of many in our community. This appeared to be an organized act of violence by cowardly members of a local criminal street gang who attempted to cause panic, fear and intimidation. I promise that when we catch the suspects, the public will be able to see who they are because they won’t be able to hide behind a hood or mask in a booking photograph,” said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Chief of Police.

Anyone with information about the incident can call 343-COPS or non-emergency dispatch at 208-454-7531.

ORIGINAL RELEASE FROM CSD: The Caldwell School District and the Caldwell Police Department are investigating an incident that happened at Caldwell High School at approximately 1:15 a.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Four individuals wearing dark hoodies and face masks were caught on video camera vandalizing Caldwell High School.

Due to the content of the graffiti, the Caldwell Police Department is investigating this incident involving the vandalism at Caldwell High School as a hate crime, per Idaho Code Section 18-7902.

“We will not tolerate hate in our city and will ensure that whoever is responsible for this will be held accountable for their actions,” said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Police Chief.

If you have information about this crime you are asked to call 343-COPS or non-emergency dispatch at 208-454-7531.