

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Highland

Eldred, NY

April 24, 2023

Town Board Acknowledges the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department and Neighbors for Resolution of Incident in the Hamlet of Barryville

This update is being provided to the public as the official update to the initial allegation. The Town Board does not and will not tolerate or condone targeted violence against any business or property owner and must be fully transparent in matters of public safety.

The Town Board of the Town of Highland thanks neighbors and community law enforcement partners for their collaboration on the quick resolution of an incident in the Town of Highland's hamlet of Barryville on Thursday, April 20, 2023. The allegations of involvement of Board members or any community members in a hate crime are deeply troubling and taken very seriously.

It was reported that destruction of the diesel gas pump at the Barryville Oasis, located at 3392 State Route 97 in Barryville, NY occurred during the overnight hours of Thursday, April 20, 2023. Allegations of vandalism, a hate crime, and a threat to public safety prompted a swift response by the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department and the Town of Highland Board's Public Safety Committee, which oversees matters of emergency management within the Town. Video of the diesel gas pump at the Barryville Oasis being sideswiped by a car transport vehicle was retrieved from a neighboring security camera on Saturday April 22nd and provided to the Sullivan County Sheriff's Deputy investigating the case and the business owner of the Barryville Oasis. Further investigation determined that the car transport truck originated in New Jersey and was carrying vehicles to a car salesman located on County Route 21 in the hamlet of Barryville when it accidentally, and likely unknowingly, sideswiped the diesel gas pumps at the Barryville Oasis.

The business owner where the property damage occurred has indicated that this matter will be handled between the businesses and their respective insurance companies, and requests no further support from the Town of Highland. We are thankful for the quick resolution of this matter and grateful that everyone is safe and uninjured.

CC: The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat