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## Public information release

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### **UPDATE: Minneapolis Police arrest the south Minneapolis mosque hit-and-run suspect.**

May 20, 2024 (Minneapolis): Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara announced tonight that officers located and arrested 37-year-old James Evan Suttles on the 3900 Block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Av S. At approximately 9:30 p.m., officers found James in his vehicle and arrested him without incident.

“I am proud of the swift and strong response by members of the Minneapolis Police Department,” said Chief O’Hara. “Within hours, this suspect was in custody, and that will help put our community at ease. This arrest is a testament to the hard work and determination of our officers and investigators.”

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### **Minneapolis Police are investigating a pedestrian hit-and-run at a south Minneapolis mosque as a potential Bias Crime**

May 20, 2024 (Minneapolis): Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara said Wednesday that the Minneapolis Police Department is investigating a Hit-and-Run Pedestrian crash as a possible targeted, biased crime.

Just before Noon on May 22nd, 2024, a 36-year-old-man was in the parking lot of a mosque located at 116 32 ST W and retrieving items from his car when a minivan drove toward him at a high rate of speed. The man in the parking lot attempted to run when the driver of the minivan swerved and struck him. The man in the parking lot suffered apparent non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Hennepin Healthcare. The driver of the van left the area.

O’Hara said investigators are familiar with the suspect. The man has a history of trespassing and acting erratically at the mosque and in the neighborhood.

“Based on the information gathered by our investigators so far, I am concerned that this crime may have been motivated by bias,” O’Hara said. “We won’t tolerate any crime in our city. But hate crimes and crimes against our houses of worship are particularly troubling because of the very real widespread fear they generate and the potential division they create among our residents.””

O’Hara said MPD leadership is in communication with the Imam and staff at the mosque, as well as community leaders. In addition to normal patrol response to the incident, additional officers are working to locate the suspect and the van, and police patrols have been enhanced in the area to protect those who come and go from this house of worship.

The driver is described as a light complected, black male in his late 30s wearing a brown shirt and black glasses. He is driving a 2002, Silver Windstar minivan with MN license ESL101.

Anyone who sees or knows the location of a 2002, Silver Windstar minivan with MN license ESL101 is asked to call 911 immediately.

The GO# for this incident is 24-138074

Individuals with information may also call CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Tips may be submitted electronically at [www.CrimeStoppersMN.org](http://www.CrimeStoppersMN.org). All Tips are anonymous and persons providing information leading to an arrest and conviction may be eligible for a financial reward.

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