



*** Media Release ***



Media Release from Grinnell Police Department :

On October 5th, 2023, at 1:02 p.m., Grinnell Police were dispatched to the Saints Rest Coffee House, 917 Broad Street, on a report of a property damage accident. Upon arrival GPD contacted a Celia Meagher, 22 y.o., of Grinnell, who stated she had just eaten lunch at Jay's Deli, located in the back of Saints Rest Coffee House, got into her 2007 Honda Civic, blue in color, bearing MN plates, and began backing out of her parking spot, to proceed northbound on Broad Street. While backing up she accidentally made contact with a 2023 Ford Expedition, black in color, bearing FL plate YRPP043, her Honda's rear passenger side bumper impacting the driver side rear bumper of the Ford. The Ford was parked on the opposite side of the street, unoccupied, at the time of the accident. The impact caused minor damage to both vehicles. A report was taken and Meagher was released from the scene with a traffic summons for unsafe backing. The Ford was a rental car associated with the Vivek Ramaswamy campaign staff, as Presidential Candidate Ramaswamy was having a campaign event at the Coffee House at the time of the accident.

The purpose of this media release is to clarify information circulating on social media concerning the details of this accident. It was reported on social media that two protestors intentionally rammed into the Ramaswamy's vehicle and fled the scene. Our investigation has revealed no evidence to substantiate that information. Meagher stated she was not in the area to protest, she did not know who the vehicle she struck belonged to, she did not intentionally back into the vehicle, and she did not flee the scene of the accident.

Anyone having any additional information related to this accident is asked to contact the Grinnell Police Department at the number below.

Non-Emergency - 641-236-2670

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty



Grinnell Police Department

<https://www.grinnelliowa.gov/169/Police>