



Steven Lowell
Chief of Police

CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF POLICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Authorized by: Steven Lowell, Chief of Police

Date: April 9th, 2026

Subject: Chief Steven Lowell Addresses False Double Homicide Report and Arrest

On April 8th, 2026 at about 7:50 PM, the Oneida City Police Department responded to a reported double homicide. Officers received a call for service indicating that two individuals had been killed at a residence within the city.

Upon arrival, officers made contact with occupants of the residence and conducted a thorough search to locate any potential victims and assess for evidence of a crime. The investigation determined that there were no victims and no evidence to support that a homicide, or any violent crime, had occurred at the location.

Officers subsequently identified and made contact with the individuals alleged to be victims. Both parties were confirmed to be alive, safe, and reported that they had not been in the City of Oneida at any point during the day.

As a result of the investigation, the reporting party, Robert Harp, age 55, was taken into custody and charged with Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree. During a search incident to arrest, officers located a quantity of methamphetamine on Harp's person. He was additionally charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree.

Chief Lowell states, "False reports of this nature place an unnecessary burden on law enforcement resources and divert critical attention away from legitimate emergencies. Our officers responded swiftly and professionally to ensure the safety of the public and to thoroughly investigate the claim.

In addition to enforcement, our department remains committed to a comprehensive, collaborative approach to crime prevention. We actively engage with community partners, service providers, and other stakeholders to address underlying issues, share information, and develop well-rounded sustainable strategies that enhance public safety. By serving better together, we are better positioned to prevent crime, support those in need, and maintain the quality of life in our community.

We also recognize the importance of transparency and timely communication. The Oneida City Police Department strives to keep the public informed and will issue notifications through our free mobile app, City website, Facebook, and Instagram platforms when appropriate, especially in situations where there may be an immediate concern for public safety.

We will continue to hold individuals accountable who knowingly provide false information to law enforcement."

The Oneida City Police Department reminds the public that falsely reporting an incident is a criminal offense and will be prosecuted accordingly.

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