



Steven Lowell  
*Chief of Police*

**CITY OF ONEIDA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
BUREAU OF POLICE



108 Main Street  
Oneida, New York 13421  
Phone (315) 363-9111

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Authorized by:** Steven Lowell, Chief of Police

**Date:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Subject:** Sexual Assault Investigation and Arrest

The Oneida City Police Department announces the arrest of an individual in connection with a sexual assault investigation stemming from an incident reported on March 29, 2026, in the City of Oneida.

On March 29, 2026, officers responded to a report of a female victim who was crying hysterically and in distress. Officers immediately initiated a sexual assault investigation and provided an immediate and coordinated response. Oneida City Police Officers and Investigators subsequently conducted an extensive, thorough, and comprehensive investigation, including evidence collection, interviews, and detailed follow-up investigative work.

As a result of this investigation, **Sean Branigan**, who has no permanent address, was identified as a suspect. On Friday, April 3, 2026, Branigan was located and taken into custody without incident. Branigan was charged with:

- **Rape in the First Degree (Class B Felony)**
- **Burglary in the Second Degree (Class C Felony)**
- **Petit Larceny (Class A Misdemeanor)**

Following arrest processing, Branigan was transported to the Madison County Jail for centralized arraignment. At arraignment, the defendant was released on his own recognizance despite a bail application submitted by the District Attorney's Office recommending \$50,000 cash bail, \$100,000 bond, and \$250,000 partially secured bond.

The Oneida City Police Department emphasizes that the investigation was conducted in a thorough and professional manner, and that the case remains active.

**Statement from the Chief of Police**

"Oneida City Police Department Investigators worked closely with the Madison County District Attorney's Office throughout this investigation to ensure that all available evidence was properly developed and that appropriate charges were brought forward. Our shared objective is to hold offenders accountable under the law, preserve the peace of our community, and protect the most vulnerable members of the public. We remain steadfast in our commitment to thorough investigations and victim-centered policing."

This remains an active investigation. No further information will be released at this time to protect the integrity of the case and the rights of those involved.

###END###