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A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Christopher L. Daniel, CHIEF

## Community Response

**Alert:** 2021-009

**Date of Alert:** June 22, 2021

**Report:** Disturbance of Indigenous Area

**Synopsis:** In May, the University of South Florida Police Department (USFPD) was notified of possible damage to an indigenous human burial site in the USF Forest Preserve, located just north of Fletcher Avenue. USFPD immediately responded to the area and began to evaluate any criminal activity that may have occurred. This remains an active investigation and we are currently pursuing any information about the case. We continue to work with other state and local agencies to assess the extent of the damage and determine further investigative actions. USFPD is committed to providing a safe environment in partnership with the community.

While we recognize there has recently been a heightened interest in the site, unfortunately damage has been reported on the property in the past. Though infrequent, USFPD has responded and investigated similar reports dating back many years.

We are aware of requests made by the Florida Indigenous Alliance to implement additional security measures at the site. USFPD is currently working with university leaders to consider the appropriate next steps for restricting unauthorized access and discouraging further damage.

Anyone with information regarding this case should contact the USF Police Department at 813-974-2628.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to remember the following tips:

- Be vigilant and keenly aware of the environment around you.
- Notify the police if anyone or anything looks out of place.
- Report suspicious activity immediately by calling 9-1-1.

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