

Dear all my Ninth AVE neighbors

Recently I was the victim of a racist hate crime on this block by one of your neighbors. I wrote about all that happened leading up to it and what happened during it. As a thirteen year old Black girl in Shoreline I am not surprised any of this happened. Shoreline likes to say how "Progressive" they are when in reality they are not one bit. I am the third generation of my family to live on this street and in the same house. My white passing great grandfather (who was Black and Native) bought this house when it was a redline district. In this neighborhood I have been bullied, followed home and now threatened. Please read this and hear what I went through as a Black Girl in Shoreline. This is your neighbor who threatened my life, and people need to know. I will not be silent about this.

(This letter is only shared with residents of Ninth AVE)

Tuesday July 14th 2020

Early in the Afternoon: Me and my mom saw a Blue Lives Matter Flag at our neighbors house (15829). My mom stopped the car and looked to see if it really was that flag. (it was) Before we drove off the Lady looked at us and laughed. (I don't know her name 100% but from what her friend was saying I think it's Jin or Jim or Jen)

Later That Evening: I made a sign saying "Black Lives Matter" and put it on her property. This was the first and only time was on her property, or anyone's property. Yes I know it was not right and I am willing to admit it was wrong and not do it again.

Wednesday July 15th

12 in the afternoon: Me and my friend drew "Black Lives Matter" in chalk in front of her house.

Mid afternoon: I was riding my bike for fun around my neighborhood and came across her house. She was on the porch and stood up and stared at me. I was worried and uncomfortable by that so I pointed at her flag and yelled "F the police" not cussing, only saying the letter itself.

Later that evening: I went and put another "Black Lives Matter" sign in front of her house not on her property.

Thursday July 16th: The Day of the Hate Crime

6:40 in the morning: I put another "Black Lives Matter" sign across the street from her house not going on anyone's private property.

2:30 in the afternoon: I made a sign saying "Am I next" with red handprints and "Defund the police". I rode my bike down to her house and stood out on the street with my sign.

She and her friend (another neighbor whose name and address I do not know) sat on her porch saying that "I'm immature for what I'm doing" and "I should of came and had a conversation with her like a real woman instead of being stupid" she then proceded to tell me how very sorry she is for me and tell her next door neighbors (to the south, 15823) that I was the one putting up signs and that they finally "caught" me. Another kid riding her bike asked what I was doing, I explained to her and she said she would stay but had to get home. After the girl left and The woman told me that she has black friends so she's not racist, She has black family so she's not racist. She then told me I made her black friend cry and her police friend cry. She said I had no disregard for any black people but myself and that I'm a selfish, stuck up brat. I still didn't say anything. Another neighbor, Melissa (The one who threatened me, Her house: 15837) turned the corner to come home to her house. She saw me and sped up and swerved near me and backed up, if I hadn't moved in time she would have hit me, it was clear that it was her intention to hit me. She backed into her driveway and got out of her car and started yelling at me "What the f*ck is wrong with you". "You dumba*ss child". She kept yelling at me and cussing at me. She turned to my neighbors on their porch and started talking about me to them. "She's just a dumb child" "She's a scared little girl" "She can't do anything, She has no power". She turned to me and yelled those same things in my face. I didn't say anything but I did put up the Black power fist. She said "Black power my a**" She said that I was implying that Black lives don't matter by what I was doing and that I was being a selfish baby, only thinking about myself. She said that I would probably be happy if "I was the next one to be shot by police" and if she was a police officer she would happily shoot and lynch me. This man walking his dog stopped to see what was happening but I didn't pay attention to him. The lady kept yelling at me how spoiled I was and how she LET Black EMTs into her house to save her disabled son's life so she's not racist. She started clapping in my face asking me if she was to come to my house, would I care/ have a problem with it? I tried to answer but she kept clapping in my face and yelling. I tried to get my phone out to film but I was scared and didn't want to move. She yelled very loud "If you put some Black Lives matter sh*t near my house I'll shoot you". The man yelled at her "Now you're just threatening her". He started yelling at all three of the women and told me to go home so I would be safe. I didn't know who he was or what happened after I left.

Friday July 17

6:50 in the morning: I put a sign across the street from both houses saying "I will not be silenced" and "Black Power".

Saturday July 18

5:30 in the morning: I put a "Black Power" sign in front of Melissa's house not at all going on her property with a note attached saying who I am, what activism work I've done in Shoreline and that she will not silence my Black voice.

To all my white and non Black neighbors,

I am asking that you do not take any actions such as vandalizing her house or anything of the sort. I'm better than that and wouldn't wish that on anyone. I am asking you to see what I go through as a Black girl in Shoreline. I want all of you to know that your neighbor Melissa (15837) tried to hit me with her car and threatened my life. I am not doing this for attention or sympathy, I am doing this because this racist woman will not get away with committing a racist hate crime against a Black teen. This woman has yet to apologize or come forward to me or my family at all. Even though no amount of apologies or sympathy can take away the trauma, I am asking that all of you make sure this woman doesn't do anything to harm me or my family. She threatened to come to my house. She has caused so much trauma to me and my family and I do not want to let her get away with this without her neighbors knowing what she has done.

-Kailyn Jordan, age 13