



# BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

**For Immediate Release:**

June 29, 2026

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## BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

### *Town of Union Man Charged with Hate Crimes following a Years of Racial Harassment*

(TOWN OF UNION, NY) A Town of Union man is facing multiple hate crime charges following an extended investigation into years harassment based on race in the Town of Union.

In May of 2026, the Broome County Sheriff's Office began investigating a series of harassment incidents after hearing from victims residing in the area of Country Club Rd. in the Town of Union.

The suspect, Robert T. Sanfelice, age 60 of the Town of Union, had allegedly been harassing a neighborhood family because of their race and ethnic origin since 2020. In the last two years, Sanfelice had made numerous disparaging racial comments, slurs and threats to the victims, telling them to return to their home country and making statements about retrieving a firearm when viewing the family outside. Additionally, he would reportedly throw food in the yard of the victims, claiming they could use it in their home country. Between 2024 and 2025, Sanfelice, on numerous occasions, followed one of the victims in his car to instill fear.

Following a subsequent investigation by the Broome County Sheriff's Office, members of the Broome County Sheriff's Office arrested Robert T. Sanfelice, age 60 of the Town of Union on the following charges:

- Three (3) Counts of Harassment in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree (as a Hate Crime), Class A Misdemeanors
- Stalking in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree (as a Hate Crime), a Class A Misdemeanor
- Two (2) Counts of Harassment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Violations

“There are bad neighbors and then there is this individual,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “Our community’s families deserve to live in peace, without constant threats and harassment based inherently on race or ethnicity and designed to instill fear,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “This family documented years of abuse, but was too fearful to come forward until this May of this year. I commend them for coming forward, and following a thorough investigation, our Law

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(607) 778-1911

**Fiscal:**  
(607) 778-2928

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(607)778-2926

**Civil:**  
(607)778-2145

**Identification:**  
(607)778-2924

**Records:**  
(607)778-2166

Enforcement Division moved quickly to hold this individual accountable for his actions.”

Sanfelice was taken to Central Arraignment where he was subsequently released on his own recognizance, to appear in the Town of Union Court at a later date.