

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 29th, 2022

Subject: School threats

Authority: Jay Niles – Chief of Police

Attachments: Columbia School District Letter dated 4/26/22
Jackson County Prosecutor letter dated 12/10/21

On Tuesday April 26th, 2022, at 11:15 am the Columbia Township Police Department was notified of a bomb threat at the Columbia Jr/Sr High School. Officers immediately responded to the school, including the school liaison officer. Upon arrival, the officers observed that the school's safety protocol had already been deployed ensuring the safety of the students, faculty, and staff that were inside the building.

Subsequently, an investigation was launched by the Columbia Township Police Department. The Michigan State Police was contacted and a dog specially trained to detect explosives was requested to respond to the scene for purposes of searching the building. The state police in fact responded with the specially trained dog and completed a thorough search of the building with negative findings. Officers from Columbia Township effected a comprehensive investigation to determine the source of the threat and this investigation continues.

The safety and security of the students, faculty, and staff of the Columbia School District are of the utmost importance to Columbia Township Police Department and its' officers. The Columbia Township Police Department fully investigates all threats to the Columbia School District and works with our law enforcement partners at the Michigan State Police and the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Individual(s) responsible for making threats towards our school system are investigated thoroughly and prosecuted when legally applicable. This also includes when the threat to the school community is determined to be false in nature. This most recent incident of a bomb threat proved to be false. Subsequently, the investigation will continue and the person or persons responsible may be charged with "false report of a threat or threat of a bomb/harmful device" sought from the prosecuting attorney's office. This criminal charge carries "the maximum penalty of up to 4 years of incarceration and/or \$2,000.00; cost to the government for responding to false report(s)."

Those who have information on this or any other ongoing investigations regarding threats to the Columbia School District are encouraged to contact the Columbia Township Police Department at 517-592-3122.