



For Immediate Release
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HPD Makes Arrest in Threats Case

Harrisonburg, Va. –

On Friday, August 23, 2019 the Harrisonburg Police Department received two complaints of threats made anonymously through the iPhone application “Air-Drop” against James Madison University students. The JMU Police Department was notified and detectives with HPD’s Major Crimes Unit began an immediate investigation.

A suspect was identified and located in Richmond, Virginia and an arrest was made. Joseph Boris Sams III, 19, a Richmond resident, was charged with two counts of making threats of death or bodily injury. Investigation concluded that the threat made by Sams was intended as a prank. This is an isolated incident and there is no active public safety concerns related to the threats that were made.

The Harrisonburg Police Department takes threats of violence over communications devices (to include email, cell phone applications, social media, etc.) very seriously and asks that our community stay vigilant in reporting suspicious activity. If you see or hear something, say something.

If you have any further information about this incident, HPD asks that you contact them by calling the Major Crimes Unit at (540) 437-2650. Anonymous tips related to this incident or any crime can be sent to Crime Solvers at (540) 574-5050 or by texting “HPD” plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).

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