



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
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HPD Makes Arrest in Threats to Area Schools

Harrisonburg, VA – On Sunday, September 15, 2024, the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) received a citizen complaint regarding threats aimed at Harrisonburg High School (HHS). The caller reported having seen social media posts in which an individual threatened to "shoot up" HHS, providing detailed plans on how this act would be carried out.

HPD immediately notified Harrisonburg City Public Schools (HCPS) officials of the threat against HHS. Following consultation with HPD, HCPS officials decided the safest course of action was to cancel classes at both Harrisonburg High School and Rocktown High School for the day. In response to the situation, and at the request of school officials, HPD significantly increased police presence around all Harrisonburg schools throughout the day.

HPD's Major Crimes Unit conducted a thorough investigation and successfully identified a suspect connected to the threats. During the investigation, detectives determined that the same individual had made similar threats against Wilson Memorial High School in Augusta County. On Monday evening, the suspect was located and taken into custody.

The suspect is identified as a 16-year-old male who attends Harrisonburg High School. Two petitions were obtained, and a detention order was issued against the juvenile for VA Code 18.2-60: Threats of death or bodily injury to a person on school property. One of the petitions was for the threat made against Harrisonburg High School and the second petition was for the



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threat against Wilson Memorial High School. The offender was subsequently transported to a juvenile detention center by HPD.

HPD is grateful for the collaboration and tips received from the community and for the strong relationship HPD has with Harrisonburg City Public Schools, which were both instrumental in advancing this investigation.

Several of the tips HPD received from the community in this investigation were received through tip411, an online platform for providing tips to HPD. Residents are encouraged to download the Harrisonburg PD app, powered by tip411. The app is designed to assist residents in connecting with HPD, viewing community alerts, and submitting anonymous tips directly from their smartphones. Those without a smartphone can still share information with police by sending an anonymous text tip. Simply text the keyword HPDVA and your message to 847411 (tip411).

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