



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police John D. Noland

Media Release



October 3, 2019

To: Media
From: Lt. Sam Almodova
Subject: UPDATE. School shooting threats from September 29th, 2019

The Sahuarita Police Department has been working with the FBI on the September 29th SUSD online school threats case since Tuesday, October 1st. The FBI was brought into the case after SPD detectives tracked the threat made against the schools to Puerto Rico.

Based off the investigation by SPD detectives, a name of a possible involved person, along with their location was turned over to the FBI in Puerto Rico. The FBI worked closely with SPD detectives to verify where the threats came from and who was responsible. FBI agents responded to the location in Puerto Rico yesterday, October 2nd. They interviewed a suspect who admitted to the original online social media threat that was posted Sunday night, September 29th, 2019.

The suspect may face possible federal charges along with local charges in Puerto Rico. The suspect is a juvenile and a former SUSD student. The SPD is not able to make further comment as to the suspect, or any possible charges (local or in Puerto Rico).

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION: The SPD recently received two separate online school shooting threats via social media. The first on September 29th and the second on September 30th.

As previously reported, the second threat case from September 30th was closed with an arrest of a local SUSD juvenile student. That suspect was booked at a Pima County juvenile detention facility. The SPD is not able to make further comment on that case as the suspect is a juvenile and charges are pending.

The case from September 29th, resulted in identifying the responsible juvenile suspect, who is currently in Puerto Rico.

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Additional follow up to these cases is being conducted by SPD detectives to determine who else may have participated or aided in the threats.

All information at this point indicates the threats in both cases were made to cause fear and disrupt multiple schools, serious crimes. There is no information that there was an actual plan, nor weapons or devices possessed or being sought, to carry out an actual school assault.

The Sahuarita Police department thanks the public, SUSD, the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and other agencies for their support during this investigation. SPD detectives worked relentlessly since September 29th on both these cases to bring some relief to the citizens of Sahuarita.

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