



JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

6373 Merle Hay Road
Johnston, Iowa 50131
515-278-2345
Fax 515-278-8239

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

By Authority of Chief Dennis McDaniel

Precautionary Procedures Taken to Ensure Community is Kept Safe

JOHNSTON, IOWA – The Johnston Police Department continues to work in conjunction with state and federal law enforcement partners to investigate what has been deemed a cyber-threat incident that began on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017 involving Johnston schools. Chief McDaniel states, “As our investigation continues we are making progress in identifying the source of these threats. I want to reassure the Johnston community that our schools are safe. This investigation is now being treated as a cyber-crime and involves hackers preying upon our worst fears in a day and age where school violence has become all too real.”

Since this incident investigation first began, all District school buildings have remained secured. As a proactive precautionary measure, internal security sweeps were conducted at each of the district’s school buildings on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 3. Then prior to the start of the school day on Wednesday, Oct. 4, police personnel conducted an exterior security sweep of each building. To ensure the continued safety of students and staff, a Johnston police officer remained near the entrance of each of the buildings for the duration of the school day. There will be a continuation of an enhanced law enforcement presence at Johnston schools in the coming days.

We would like to reassure the community that over the last 24-hours, no additional credible threats towards Johnston schools have been substantiated. However, new, similar threats to what Johnston received have been reported in multiple communities across the country. Some of these are likely to be copycats and hoaxes, others may be a continuation of threats from the group that initially targeted Johnston. In all the cases made known to the Johnston Police Department nothing hazardous has been found at any of those locations and the threats have yet to be deemed as credible in any community that has been targeted.

The Johnston Police Department would like to thank all members of the public who have reached out to offer their support to our organization. We are here to serve you and will continue to do so in partnership with multiple law enforcement agencies vested in the safety and security of our community. We ask that members of the public continue to help us in our efforts by remaining calm, being observant, and reporting anything you believe may be relevant to our investigation. If you “see something, say something.”

As this joint investigation continues, further information will be released when appropriate.

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