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Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Casselberry Police Department, and Seminole County Public Schools
Juvenile arrested in connection to online threat

Seminole Co., Fla. (02/22/2018) – Casselberry Police this morning announced a 12-year-old female student has been arrested for posting an online threat to shoot and place destructive devices at three Seminole County schools: Casselberry Elementary, South Seminole Middle School, and Sterling Park Elementary.

Casselberry investigators determined the threat originated from a cell phone and located the owner. It was determined the threat was posted by a 12-year-old student who attends South Seminole Middle School. Upon questioning, the student admitted to posting the threat. Investigators confirmed that the threat was not credible and the student did not have access to weapons or bomb-making materials. She was arrested for threatening to discharge a destructive device and booked into the Juvenile Assessment Center.

Casselberry Chief of Police Larry D. Krantz stated, "In light of the recent tragic events, I am saddened a 12-year-old used social media to make threats against our students, which caused parents to worry for the safety of their children. We take these threats very seriously and will work with the Seminole County School Board and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to diligently investigate any threat or concern effecting the safety of our students and community." Chief Krantz added, "Let me be clear, their actions have serious consequences and will result in their arrest."

As part of the investigation, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and Casselberry Police conducted an extensive search of the schools and the surrounding properties. No suspicious devices or materials were located and the schools were deemed safe for students.

Seminole County law enforcement agencies are working in partnership with Seminole County Public Schools to monitor and thoroughly investigate any and all safety concerns. In the past year, Sheriff Dennis Lemma has worked collaboratively with Seminole County Public Schools and our municipal police partners to have a dedicated school resource deputy or officer on each school campus county-wide. In addition, the Sheriff's Office has appointed a captain who serves as Director of School Safety and Security for Seminole County Public Schools.

"Our children's safety is our highest priority, and anyone looking to create a climate of fear or school disruption will be located and arrested," said Sheriff Dennis Lemma.

"These types of threats are no laughing matter. Our district has zero tolerance for this kind of behavior and any student making such claims will face severe consequences such as possible expulsion," said Walt Griffin, Ed.D., Superintendent, Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS).

Citizens and students are encouraged to report any suspicious activity or online posts by contacting law enforcement or the SpeakOut Hotline at 1-800-423-TIPS. If you see something, say something.

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