Special Press Release
Thursday, December 16, 2021

21088192 Threats / Causing False Public Alarm

Somerset County Prosecutor Michael H. Robertson, Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office Chief of County Detectives John W. Fodor and Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather announce that a 13-year-old Franklin Middle School Student has been charged with creating a false public alarm.

On Tuesday, December 14, 2021, the Franklin Township Police Department was alerted by school officials that a text message had been circulating among several students threatening a violent act at the Franklin Middle School Hamilton Street Campus that was to occur on the following day. School Resource Officers and Detectives from the Franklin Township Police Department immediately initiated an investigation and quickly determined the origin of the message and that the threat was not credible.

Following a thorough and comprehensive investigation it was determined that a 13-year-old student from the Middle School had sent the message as a prank. The case was screened with the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office and charges of causing false public alarm, third degree, were authorized.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Ravally, stated, “Incidents such as these will not be tolerated. We will continue to work with the Franklin Township Police Department to ensure the safety and security of our student body, staff, and visitors. We urge parents to discuss with their children that incidents like this are serious and will always be referred to law enforcement.” Franklin Township Public Safety Director, Quovella M. Maeweather, stated, “I am proud of the swift and sure actions of our officers. Through their hard work and dedication, they were able to quickly determine that this was not a credible threat. Incidents such as these put a tremendous stress on emergency services. I hope that young people will begin to realize that what they deem as a ‘prank’ has very real consequences.”