



Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

315 Fourth Avenue, MS P-200
Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: September 10th, 2024
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Email: pio@chulavistapd.org
Subject: **STUDENT ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THREATENING MESSAGES – CHULA VISTA**

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chula Vista police officers have arrested a 12-year-old student in connection with threatening messages that caused fear on multiple school campuses and the absence of many concerned students.

On Monday morning, September 9th, the Chula Vista Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit was made aware of a threatening text message received by a 12-year-old student who attends Bonita Vista Middle School (650 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, CA). In addition to other comments, the sender claimed they would commit a shooting at the school on Tuesday.

The message was received by the student on Saturday, September 7th, but it was not reported to school staff or police until Monday morning. Based on the circumstances and additional context in the message string, school resource officers on campus did not believe the threat was credible, however, they worked with school staff to immediately enact safety precautions and begin their investigation. The school also sent out information about the investigation to parents.

On Tuesday morning, September 10th, information began circulating on social media that caused fear and concern of a possible “active shooter” at Rancho Del Rey Middle School. School resource officers, who were already on campus during the normal course of their duties, immediately confirmed there was no active shooter or other danger to students and staff. They also learned the “active shooter” concern stemmed from the original threat received by the Bonita Vista Middle School student over the weekend. Screenshots of the threatening text message had been forwarded to students at various Chula Vista schools, including Rancho Del Rey Middle School and Discovery Charter, and is believed to be the cause of Tuesday’s rapid departure of numerous students from both campuses.

In addition to being on several campuses to ensure student and staff safety this Tuesday, school resource officers continued their investigation of the threatening message. Based on the investigation,

it was determined the original threatening text was created by the 12-year-old student who initially reported the incident to police. On Tuesday just after 11 a.m., the student was arrested and later released to a parent. The charges include criminal threats and filing a false police report.

School resource officers are continuing to investigate the circumstances surrounding this incident. Students, or anyone with information, are asked to contact San Diego County Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 or submit tips anonymously online or through the P3tips mobile application.

A reminder for the community: Investigations of threats to students and schools are prioritized by the police department and are never taken lightly. Whether the threats are credible or not, they can exhaust police and community resources – personnel, time, and equipment that could otherwise be directed toward other emergencies. Beyond this, school threats foster fear, disrupt learning environments, and cause emotional distress, making them socially and legally unacceptable. Parents are reminded to speak with their children about the consequences of making threats in a school environment as well as general school safety.

**Weekend and after-hour inquiries should be directed to the Watch Commander at (619)476-5374, however no other information is available for release at the time of this media advisory distribution.*

Prepared By: Sgt. Anthony Molina
Copies Sent To: San Diego Media

Approved By: Assistant Chief Dan Peak
Date/Time: 09-10-2024 / 1430