

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office Investigates Bomb Threats at Several Hanover County Schools

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office is currently conducting multiple investigations into both direct and implied threats to several schools in Hanover County. The following incidents are currently under investigation:

- March 22 Custodian reported threat written on bathroom stall at Atlee High School.
- March 23 Student reported threat written on bathroom stall at Patrick Henry High School.
- March 24 Threatening note dropped in student's locker at Liberty Middle School. A 12-year-old student has been charged with writing the note. The threat was not credible.
- March 25 Student reported threat written on bathroom stall at Chickahominy Middle School
- March 24/25 Students and Parents reporting threatening language posted on social networking sites.

While there exists no evidence that any of these threats are credible, the Sheriff's Office has been working with Hanover Schools, Hanover Fire, and other public safety agencies to take the measures necessary to ensure a safe learning environment. These steps have included physical sweeps of the schools, K-9 sweeps of the schools, additional law enforcement presence at the schools, additional monitoring by school personnel, conducting targeted interviews of students, and working with social networking sites to identify those responsible for threatening language.

Making threats to bomb is a felony and those found responsible for these threats will be charged. In the cases involving social networking threats, those individuals can also be held accountable in Hanover County, even if the threats did not originate here. Actions such as these result in considerable deployment of public safety resources, disruption of the school environment, and anxiety among students and parents. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to identifying those responsible for these threats.

The Sheriff's Office urges anyone with knowledge of those responsible for these crimes to contact the Sheriff's Office at 804-365-6140 or Crime Stoppers at 804-780-1000. Information can also be sent anonymously by texting to CRIMES or 274637. All messages should begin with "itip".

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"CONTINUING TO BE A PART OF, NOT APART FROM, THE COMMUNITY"