



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF SURPRISE

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Parents, Guardians, Students,

As you may have seen recently on the news, there have been a number of reports of students making threats against schools across Arizona. While nearly all were determined not to be credible, the impact and consequences are very serious. It is of the utmost importance students understand this.

In the current environment, law enforcement and school officials must respond as if threats are real and act swiftly to ensure the safety of all involved. Regardless of how or where threats are made, they are taken seriously. Subsequent statements like "I was only joking," or "I don't even own a gun," are no excuse.

While the likelihood of a violent attack at any school is low, the response to a threat is a certainty. There simply is no other responsible action. Law enforcement, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, and school administrators agree that threatening statements about school violence made by students can lead swiftly to expulsion, a formal police investigation, and felony criminal charges. The welfare of the school community is paramount, and we ask that deliberate conversations occur regarding the seriousness of this issue.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping ensure the safety and security of students, staff and the community. We look forward to working with you on this important topic.

Stay Safe,

Benny Pina
Chief of Police
Surprise Police Department

Paul Marzocca
Chief of Police
El Mirage Police Department