

SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT 155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: December 19, 2018

LOCATION: 400 block of King Street

TOPIC: Middle School Threat Investigation CASE NUMBER: 18S-09463

INFORMATION:

The Santa Cruz Police Department is investigating a threat at Mission Hill Middle School. On Tuesday, December 18, 2018, a custodian discovered a handwritten message on a bathroom stall containing a threat of violence. To protect the integrity of the investigation; the contents of the message will not be released.

Santa Cruz Police worked to assess the threat conducting interviews and searches when possible. Investigators do not believe this threat to be credible. The threat is isolated to Mission Hill Middle School.

The Santa Cruz Police Department is working closely with our partners at Santa Cruz City Schools on this investigation, and a safety plan is in place for students and staff.

The safety of students and staff at our school campuses is of paramount importance. In an abundance of caution, the Santa Cruz Police Department will have additional officers on campus tomorrow and at other campuses throughout the day as needed. If any additional information develops, updates will be shared with parents, students, and staff. Parents can reassure students they are safe.

Chief Mills said, "It is important to talk to our children about safety and the need to speak up to police or administrators if they heard or saw anything that concerns them."

This case underscores the importance of cooperation between Santa Cruz City Schools and the Police.

The Santa Cruz Police Department is asking anyone with information to contact investigators at 831-420-5820. Tips can also be left through the means listed below.

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For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; <u>www.santacruzpolice.com</u>. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.