



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Portage Department
of Public Safety
Watch Command
329-4567

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 13, 2013

Case No. 13-11439

On 7-13-13, at approximately 8:15 p.m., Portage Department of Public Safety police units were dispatched to Crossroads Mall to investigate a complaint of a threat. A concerned parent informed police that his son had conveyed that he was at the Crossroads Mall and was going to "shoot it up." After officers located a vehicle linked to the suspect in the parking lot, the mall was evacuated as a precautionary measure.

At about the same time as the evacuation, Portage Dispatch began to receive a volley of unusual 9-1-1 calls from an unidentified individual. In one of the calls, the subject stated, "Three people are dead." In another call, the subject told dispatchers that he was heading to an apartment complex in Kalamazoo with a gun, and that police should respond there in order to save lives.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., a Portage police officer spotted the original suspect on Schuring Road near Oakland Drive. The subject fled on foot, however, was eventually apprehended. His mobile phone was found near him, hidden, and partially dismantled. The suspect, a 22-year-old Portage man, was arrested and lodged at the Kalamazoo County Jail and is believed to be responsible for all the 9-1-1 calls in question. Charges of Unauthorized 9-1-1 Use and Resisting/Obstructing a Police Officer will be submitted to the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office for review. No weapons were found associated with the subject.

*****UPDATE*****

The suspect in this incident was identified as Mitchell Collin Meister, a white male, 22-years-old. On July 13, 2013, the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office reviewed the case and authorized two felony charges against Meister for False Report or Threat of Terrorism and Resisting and Obstructing Police. Meister is currently being held at the Kalamazoo County Jail on a \$250,000 bond.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

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