

## NEWS RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Portage Department of Public Safety  
Sr. Deputy Police Chief John Blue  
269-329-4567

Portage Public Schools  
Michelle Karpinski, Community Relations  
269-323-5162

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 21, 2018  
Case No. 18-4529

### **See Something, Say Something Against Threats**

During the past two days, the Portage Department of Public Safety (PDPS) and Portage Public Schools (PPS) have worked cooperatively to investigate a potential threat to students at Community High School, the PPS alternative high school program. During the course of the investigation, which began on Monday, February 19, 2018, a suspect was identified and placed into custody at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. As the investigation developed, a second suspect was identified and placed into custody at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. Throughout the investigation, authorities determined that there was never immediate danger to students or staff, however, moved quickly to identify those responsible. In addition to legal action, Portage Public Schools is taking the appropriate disciplinary action against the students.

“This investigation is an excellent example of ‘if you see something, say something.’ If something doesn’t seem right, report it,” said Portage Department of Public Safety officials. “In this instance, information allowed authorities to act in advance of what could have evolved into a more serious situation.”

“We know that parent and student concerns about school safety across the country are at an all-time high,” said Mark Bielang, Superintendent of Portage Public Schools. “We work closely with the Portage Department of Public Safety and our school resource officers daily to identify potential threats and take immediate and appropriate action. Students and parents can be our best eyes and ears.”

Police and school officials say, if you don't feel comfortable calling the police directly (269-329-4567), notify a parent or a counselor, or contact Silent Observer to leave an anonymous tip at 269-343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com)

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