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MEDIA RELEASE

By Captain Randy Ralston
May 5, 2017

Release #1:

On May 4, 2017, at about 7:00 p.m. Officers of the Garden City Police Department were made aware of reports of threats of violence towards students of the Garden City High School through social media.

The Garden City Police Department and USD 457 began an investigation into the incident. Based on information received during the investigation, a 16-year-old juvenile male has been taken into protective custody. No arrests or charges have been made or requested at this time.

Police presence has been increased today at the High School. This is an active investigation; no further information will be released at this time.

*******Update*******
May 9, 2017

During the continued investigation of the threats, Jaquelin Rico (16) 712 Safford St. was arrested for criminal threat and identity theft in relation to the original Snapchat message threatening violence towards students of the Garden City High School. She was also arrested for an additional threat sent through social media on Saturday (May 06, 2017). She was lodged in the Southwest Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center and could face the possible charges of, Criminal Threat (x9), Identity Theft, Making False Information for the original incident on May 4th. She could face additional charges, Criminal Threat (x9) and Making False Information for the additional Snapchat message on May 6th.

Through the investigation, it was also learned of an individual at the Garden City High School who was allegedly creating fake Snapchat accounts to send defamatory messages to other students at the school. In relation to these messages, Jonathan Gonzalez (16) 4101 E Hwy 50 # 227 was arrested and lodged in the Juvenile Detention Center for Stalking and Identity Theft. These alleged defamatory messages along with other disconcerting activities were the cause of the initial threat being issued.

There was never an actual plan to carry out the original threat and students were not in danger from this incident. Both cases have been referred to the Finney County Attorney's Office.

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The person (s) involved have not yet been convicted of a crime. Their guilt or innocence must be proven in a court of law and accordance with the Kansas Statutes. As such, these suspects are innocent until proven otherwise.