



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police charge 12-year-old girl with school threat hoax**

Howard County police have charged a 12-year-old girl in a hoax that threatened multiple schools in the county.

Police were notified Nov. 12 of a social media post claiming that someone was going to commit shootings at various schools in Columbia. Detectives traced the account, determined it was a fake user, and identified the 12-year-old girl as the person who had actually set-up the account. Investigators have found no evidence of a credible threat.

The girl, who will not be identified due to her age, is from Columbia. She has been criminally charged with making a threat of mass violence, disrupting school activities and disorderly conduct. Her Howard County school, which also will not be identified due to the ongoing investigation, has been notified of her arrest. Detectives are working to determine if anyone else may have been involved in the hoax.

Howard County police take threats against schools and other public institutions very seriously. All students should be reminded of the serious nature of these types of threats, which are not considered “jokes” and will result in criminal charges.

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