



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

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For Immediate Release:

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Suspect charged with multiple offenses resulting from “Swatting” incidents

Monroe Township, Middlesex County- On August 21, 2024, The Monroe Township Police Department Criminal Investigations Division arrested a juvenile subject as a result of an investigation into previous incidents of “swatting” in Monroe Township and other jurisdictions.

On July 3rd, 2024, police responded to a residence in town for a report of a subject with a weapon who had injured family members. Following a large police response and investigation, it was determined to be a false report meant to draw a police response to the location. The suspect later attempted to extort money from the resident in order to cease further “swatting” incidents. The same residence was targeted additional times in the same manner by the suspect.

Further investigation revealed the juvenile was also suspected of committing numerous “swatting” incidents in Orlando, Florida and was wanted by The Orlando Police Department.

The investigation concluded with Detective Joseph Gentile charging the suspect with two counts of creating a false public alarm, two counts of attempted theft by extortion, and one count of being a fugitive from justice for the pending charges out of Orlando, Florida.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court. In accordance with New Jersey law, the identity of juvenile suspects is not revealed.

As previously noted, “swatting” is a dangerous prank where someone makes a false report to emergency services, such as claiming a hostage situation or an active shooter, in order to provoke a large police or SWAT team response to a specific address. This malicious act can lead to serious consequences, including injury or death. Should you find yourself the victim of one of these situations, it is imperative that you remain calm and follow all instructions given to you by officers.