



## EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

JEFFREY FUESTING, CHIEF OF POLICE

201 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE, EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS 62401

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**December 13, 2018**

### **ARREST MADE IN SCHOOL THREAT**

At approximately 11:20 A.M. on December 13, 2018, Effingham Unit #40 Effingham Police School Resource Officer was made aware of a possible school shooting threat at Effingham High School. Effingham Police immediately began investigating the incident. Working with school administration, Officers promptly identified a suspect.

A 17-year-old juvenile was interviewed and taken into custody at approximately 12:00 P.M. At no time were any students, faculty or staff in immediate danger. The Police Department was in direct communication with Effingham County State's Attorney Bryan Kibler during the incident, and the juvenile will be charged with Making a Terroristic Threat, a Class X Felony.

Effingham Police Chief Jeffrey Fuesting advises citizens and parents that a positive, swift outcome came about due to prompt reporting of the threat, as well as immediate, preplanned action on the part of the school and the Police Department. "Effingham Police Officers have trained in the schools, with school personnel, for this type of scenario. We have a plan of action in place so that when a situation arises, everyone knows how to respond to ensure the safety of everyone involved. This incident highlights the need for on-going training, and also highlights the effectiveness of having a School Resource Officer involved in our schools every day." In addition, Chief Fuesting warns, "We take threats, especially threats toward a school, very seriously, and will work with the State's Attorney's Office to prosecute any individual making such threats." Chief Fuesting and School Superintendent Mark Doan are currently working on a plan of action to educate the student body on the seriousness of these types of threats.

*If you see it, say it! The Effingham Police Department encourages you to call the Police Department immediately at 217-347-0774 to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or business district. Information can be given anonymously by calling the CRIMESTOPPERS Tip Line at 217-347-6583. Anonymous callers can receive up to \$1,000 cash rewards.*