

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR HORNIK CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE REPORTING INITIATIVE FOLLOWING MIDDLE SCHOOL SECURITY CONCERN

See Something. Say Something. ® We Will Do Something.

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (February 19, 2019) –Marlboro Township Mayor Jonathan Hornik and the Marlboro Township Chief of Police Bruce Hall announce the successful results of the "See Something. Say Something.® We Will Do Something." campaign. On February 14, 2019 the Marlboro Township Police Department received confidential information concerning remarks overheard by Marlboro Middle School students. The students informed their parents who contacted the Marlboro Division of Police, initiating an investigation following which the Division of Police concluded that there was no credible threat to other students or the public.

Capt. Peter Pezzullo stated, "Immediately upon the parents reporting the incident Mayor Hornik was briefed and the school administration was notified. A Police Officer was immediately assigned to conduct an investigation into the reported threats. The Middle School Resource Officer, Callen Figarola, was recalled to duty in order to assist in the investigation. Police protocol in similar incidents is to conduct interviews and evaluate the available information to determine the credibility of the threat. It was determined that there was no credible threat at this time, the school administration was advised and they indicated that board of education protocol would be followed."

Mayor Jon Hornik stated, "Security is of the utmost importance to both the community and to me personally and I am immediately informed whenever a security concern is reported. As a parent, I understand the frustration and worry of not having all the information. By law, many details of action taken, especially when dealing with a minor, may not be divulged." He continued, "The Police and the Administration follow procedure and vet the complaint to ensure that all the facts are known before a public statement is made. When we announce that that there is no credible threat at this time, the public can be assured that the Police has done their due diligence and we do not make that statement lightly."

Mayor Jon Hornik said, "We have had SROs in the schools for many years, but, following the Parkland shooting, Officers were placed in each school full-time." He continued, "Surveillance cameras are utilized and each school received a security upgrade to the building. Additional measures are in place but not discussed publicly so as not to compromise security. Police presence, along with continuing security measures, and the timely reporting of any suspicious behavior will give parents added confidence that their children are safe."

Mayor Hornik emphasized the importance that residents who see or hear something out of place or that looks or feels wrong to report the incident immediately. The Citizen Reporting Initiative includes a printable list of phone numbers and websites posted on the township website or use the following link <http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/notices/citizenreporting.pdf>

At the direction of Mayor Hornik, to ease the concerns of parents, students and educators, additional Officers were present this morning at the opening of the Marlboro Middle School. To address security concerns, Mayor Hornik and Police Officers will attend the Board of Education meeting scheduled for this evening at 7:00 pm.

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