



## KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

BRYAN LITWIN | CHIEF OF POLICE

# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Date:** 2/13/23

**CONTACT:**

CAPTAIN RYAN VANDERVEEN

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**INCIDENT TYPE:** School Threat

**LOCATION:** Valleywood Middle School (1110 50<sup>th</sup> Street SE)

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 2/13/23

**TIME OF INCIDENT:** 12:12 p.m.

**AUTHORIZED BY:** Captain Ryan VanderVeen

**KENTWOOD, Michigan, Feb. 13, 2023** – At approximately 12:12 p.m., the Kentwood Police Department received information from a national crisis hotline regarding a possible threat at Valleywood Middle School. Information given was that an individual had made a threat to do acts of violence at the school.

After a coordinated effort by the Kentwood Police Department and Kentwood Public School officials, it was determined that the threat was not credible. The threat was made by a Kentwood student. Because the threat was not credible, no students or school staff were in danger.

The Kent County Prosecutor's Office will review this case for potential charges. The name and details of the involved student are not being released because that person is a minor.

KPD considers this to be an instance of “swatting,” a trend happening across the nation where an anonymous caller reports a non-credible threat to intentionally create a response from law enforcement to a particular location.

The Kentwood Police Department takes all threats seriously and encourages the public to always report all suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately.

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