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December 7, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

To: All Media Outlets
From: Captain Dawn Williams

The following is a follow up to the original Press Release from 12/3/15 regarding a code yellow and arrest at Columbia High School. The 9th grade 15 year old male student that was taken into custody was charged with the following:

Possession of an Imitation Firearm, False Public Alarm, Terroristic Threats, Aggravated Assault, Possession of a weapon in an educational institution.

The aforementioned charges were filed subsequent to investigation for the incident which caused the code yellow and the interaction involving the 14 year old male student / victim. The actor had a toy handgun that had the safety feature identifying it as a toy removed. It was observed in the actor's possession by other students and he then entered the school with it. School Administrators were notified of a possible weapon in the school and in turn notified the Police Department and the Code Yellow was activated as a precautionary measure. While in the school, the actor then displayed the weapon to a 14 year old male student / victim and had a brief interaction with the victim that caused him to become fearful that the weapon would be used against him. Please see the original release below for details. There is no further information available at this time.



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ROBERT J. CIMINO
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December 3, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

To: All Media Outlets
From: Captain Dawn Williams

On 12/03/15 at approximately 12:08 pm, Officers from the Maplewood and South Orange Police Departments responded to Columbia High School for a Code Yellow-shelter in place subsequent to School Administrators receiving information from students that there may be a student armed with a weapon in the school. Officers worked with the CHS staff and quickly resolved the incident. A 9th grade 15 year old male student was taken into custody for possession of a weapon which was subsequently determined to be a toy handgun. The code yellow was subsequently lifted and all students and faculty were safe as they resumed their normal schedules. The Maplewood Police Department would like to thank the CHS School Administrators and staff for their excellent work in dealing with this afternoon's incident and helping to facilitate a quick resolution to the matter.

As a result of the investigation, it was determined that the student taken into custody had displayed the weapon to a 9th grade, 14 year old male student. As a result, the male that was taken into custody will receive numerous charges and will be turned over to The Essex County Juvenile Detention Center.

The incident continues to be under investigation. There is no further information available at this time.