

TO: All Police Chiefs and Public Safety Directors

FROM: Chief Vincent Quatrone (Ret.)
J. A. Montgomery Risk Control – Law Enforcement Bulletin 2018-04

RE: Update to Attorney General Directive 2016-17: Replacement of the October 9, 2007, of Investigative Tips and Leads Received from the New Jersey Public and Law Enforcement Guidelines

DATE: April 24, 2018

Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the state have been experiencing an increase in school-related threats. On March 26, 2018, New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal issued a modification to Directive 2016-17 and the 2007 Law Enforcement Guidelines for the reporting of suspicious activity, terminology and sharing of information to the following:

Law enforcement agencies in New Jersey shall immediately report suspicious activity with a possible nexus to terrorism, and any and all threats of violence generally to any public location or mass gathering area, threats of violence specifically to any school, workplace or house of worship, or other criminal activity related to terrorism, to CT (Counter Terrorism) Watch (formerly known as the “Tips and Leads” Section of NJOHSP) **and** their CTC (County Terrorism Coordinators). Reporting shall include all pertinent information and supporting documents, if any. Reporting to NJOHSP can be made (1) to the hotline at 1-866-4SAFENJ (866-472-3365), (2) via email at tips@njohsp.gov, (3) by submitting the online form at <https://homelandsecurity.nj.gov/tips> or (4) via NJSARS.

Below lists some actions that can be taken by Law Enforcement when responding to a school threat incident:

- Investigate all school threats to a logical conclusion
- Assign a Superior Officer to respond to the scene
- Make certain that members of the Investigative Division respond to the scene
- Formal Statements should be taken from any witnesses to the threat or incident
- Photograph and process any crime scenes relating to the threat or incident
- When probable cause exists actor/s should be charged appropriately
- Within the framework of the 4th amendment and where probable cause exists, conduct a search of the actor(s) for weapons and/or where the actor(s) may have access to weapons
- Obtain a consent to search or obtain a search warrant for the actor/s vehicle, home or locker.
- Conduct an NCIC check for any weapons registered to the actor(s) or the address he/she is staying or residing
- In the case of a student actor, inquire with school administrators if a Psychological Clearance will be required before the student returns to school
- Report all appropriate incidents to NJOHSP in accordance with updated Directive 2016-7

This bulletin is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. Please consult with your County Prosecutor or Borough Attorney before making any policy or operational changes.