



City of Edmonds Media Release

Edmonds Police Department ~ 250 5th AVE North, Edmonds WA 98020

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To: Media

Contact: Sergeant Shane Hawley (425) 771-0284

EDMONDS-WOODWAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BOOKED FOR HARRASSMENT SPECIFIC STUDENTS TARGETED BASED ON THEIR RACE

Two Edmonds-Woodway High School students have been expelled from the Edmonds School District and booked into the Denney Youth Center over specific threats made online.

Since August of 2015, the two suspects ran an online chat group where they made racially charged threats against African-American students in their school. The comments included detailed descriptions about how they intended to kill one of the victims, including "lynching". The suspects also made threats against the student body as a whole, including threats to put the school on lockdown and having "dead bodies" all over the school.

These comments caused another student in the chat room to alert the school last Monday, December 7th. The school notified the intended victims then called the Edmonds Police Department. For immediate safety reasons, the Edmonds School District emergently expelled both students while the Edmonds Police Department began the investigation.

Based on the initial reports to the Edmonds Police Department, it became apparent that additional investigation was necessary into the threats. During the subsequent week long investigation, additional evidence was gathered and both suspects were interviewed. They admitted to making the comments, however, denied any intention of carrying out the threats and claimed they were just trying to be funny.

The Edmonds Police Department takes any threat complaints of this nature seriously. This sort of behavior constitutes the crime of Malicious Harassment under Washington State law. According to Detective Sergeant Michael Richardson, "the statements made were shocking and appalling. Threats of this nature cannot be tolerated in today's society".

The suspects, ages 15 and 16 are both from Edmonds. They have been booked into the Denney Youth Center for the crime of Malicious Harassment.

This case is still under investigation by the Detective Unit.

(Edmonds - WA)

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