



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Public Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Student Arrested for Making False Bomb Threat – 2024-01897

Date: January 22, 2024

On 01-19-24, Deputy Angel Lara, the School Resource Deputy at Explorer K-8, was contacted by the school's assistant principal, Andrew Macgregor, in regard to concerning text messages received by a student on campus.

Deputy Lara and Mr. Macgregor promptly met with the student who received the text messages.

The student advised he had received a phone call, while in class, from an unknown telephone number. When the student answered the phone, the caller made a statement about working in a convenience store, then began laughing.

Not recognizing the telephone number, nor the caller's voice, the student texted the number back to ask who it was. The original caller responded to the text message with several text messages, including a threat to "bomb your school" and went so far as to provide the name and location of the school (Explorer K-8, Northcliffe Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL.).

Upon reading said text messages, Deputy Lara immediately notified the HCSO so additional resources could be dispatched to the school and enacted the proper bomb threat protocols at the school.

Upon arrival at the school, deputies formed search teams and conducted a thorough and methodical search of the school campus.

Fortunately, no suspicious items or contraband was located.

Bomb threat protocols were released at the school, allowing students and staff back on campus.

During this time, the HCSO Crime Analysis Unit was able to obtain subscriber information for the telephone number used to make the threats.

Further investigation revealed the telephone number belonged to the parent of a student at Winding Waters K-8.

Deputy M. Renzkowski, School Resource Deputy at Winding Waters K-8, along with the school's assistant principal, Jennifer de Armas, immediately responded to the class the student was in and removed her and all of her belongings from the classroom.

Deputy Renzkowski contacted the student's mother and requested she respond to the school.

Deputy Renzkowski confirmed with the student (with her mother present) that she had her cell phone with her and confirmed the number which was the same number used to make the false bomb threat.

Further questioning revealed the student allowed another student, identified as Averie Figueroa, to use the cell phone during sixth and seventh periods, which was from approximately 10:04 a.m. until 11:46 a.m.

Figueroa asked to borrow the phone to make a prank call to her friend who attends Explorer K-8, advising if she used her own phone, the student would know who made the call.

Upon reviewing the school camera system, Renzkowski confirmed the student's account of the events.

Deputy Renzkowski and Ms. de Armas then met with Averie Figueroa and her mother.

During the interview, Averie Figueroa admitted to making the original call and to sending the text messages, including the bomb threat, stating "This is how kids joke." Figueroa also stated that she planned to tell the student at Explorer K-8 that it was her who made the call and sent the text messages; however, she forgot to do so.

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, deputies placed **Averie Figueroa** under arrest, charging her with **False Report of a Bomb**.

Figueroa was transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in Ocala, where she remains.