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MARCH 9, 2018

Media Release

2018-04341 Arrest Update

Perry Township Police Department continued the investigation into the Sour Patch Kids that created medical concerns on March 7, 2018 at Perry High School with several students.

During the course of the investigation we identified the original source of how the candies came into the school. It should be noted that the male student bringing the candies into the school brought them to share with friends and did not have any malicious intent. His intent was similar to any other good kid to just be nice to others. We also know why the candies were separated by color.

A female student/friend who received one of the bags of candy began telling people that they were laced after a few kids had consumed them when she passed them out. This took an act of kindness and twisted it very quickly. This female student was found to be the originator and source of the statement giving rise to this case. Understandably, this set off considerable panic and anxiety with the students who had consumed the candies.

During the investigation of this case, we recovered the remaining unconsumed chewable candy that was possessed by other students. Arrangements were made with the Stark County Crime Lab to analyze the candy, and it was transported to their facility from the scene. Tentative results reveal the unconsumed candies were not tampered with. There was one color of the chewable candies that we could not recover because it had been consumed and/or the remaining portion discarded. The candies that were not recovered were in the possession of the female student making comments about them being laced.

Many questions have been asked regarding the medical screenings that were performed by local hospitals in this case. Perry Township Police Department respects the right to privacy for parents and legal guardians to make medical decisions for their children. Subsequently, medical questions will not be addressed. Keep in mind/ask yourself before you comment, if it was your family member involved how you would want their privacy treated... Please be respectful.

After reviewing this case with the Stark County Juvenile Prosecutor's Office, an arrest was made for the following:

Disorderly Conduct MM

Obstructing Official Business M2

I would like to thank all agencies that assisted Perry Township with this case as follows:

Jackson Township Fire Department

Massillon Fire Department

Perry Township Fire Department

Stark County Crime Lab

A special thank you goes out to the Police Officers and Detectives that investigated this case. I know that this case became very important to our community, and you stepped up giving 100%! The Police Officers and Detectives investigating this case went above and beyond working long hours on this case away from their families.

For questions regarding this release please contact Chief Pomesky.