



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Hernando County Student Arrested for Threatening Hillsborough County Schools – 2024-249279

Date: September 19, 2024

On 09-18-24, Hernando County detectives were contacted by detectives at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office regarding a school threat.

Hillsborough County detectives reported receiving a bomb threat to one or more schools in Hillsborough County. The threat was posted to the X-Corp social media platform (formerly known as Twitter).

The threat read, "BOMB THE SCHOOLS" and the Hillsborough County Schools' X-Corp page was tagged in the post.

Initial investigation, conducted by Hillsborough County detectives, revealed the owner of the account from which the threat was posted, was Hayden John Couto. Couto lives in Hernando County and attends Weeki Wachee High School.

Post Miranda, Couto admitted to being the sole owner of the social media account in question. Couto also admitted to posting the threat from his cell phone, stating he was disgruntled and "hates everything" about school – and just wanted to express his viewpoint.

Couto told detectives he did not have a specific target in mind and chose Hillsborough County because he used to live and attend school there.

Couto went on to say that he does not have any bomb-making materials, nor does he know how to make a bomb.

Detectives conducted a check of the Couto residence and found no evidence of bomb-making materials, nor any suspicious writings, drawings, or documentation of any sort.

Couto received school discipline by school staff.

Hayden Couto, 14, was then placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- False Report of a Bomb.

Couto was delivered to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Ocala, where he remains.

The investigation remains active.