

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
413 Second Street
Belvidere New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275
Fax: (908) 475-6286



RICHARD T. BURKE
County Prosecutor
MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
First Assistant Prosecutor
KIRK T. TRAUGER
Chief of Detectives

County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

INCIDENT: Hackettstown High School Threat
March 26, 2011
911 Calls

On March 26, 2012, the Warren County 911 Center received two calls from an individual identifying himself as Kevin McGowan, 19, residing on Warren Street in Hackettstown, Warren County, New Jersey. Despite the identifying information provided by the caller, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office has been unable to identify the true identity of the caller and the investigation is ongoing.

On two occasions, we have released transcripts of the telephone calls received through 911 on that date. Some members of the press have questioned why the audio files have not been released. This press release is intended to address that issue.

The transcripts have been provided in lieu of a release of the audio file because we believe that the release of the audio at this time may jeopardize the safety of the juvenile female referenced in the calls and may jeopardize the ongoing investigation because the audio of those calls will be necessary to make a positive identification of the caller once a suspect is identified.

We are aware that 911 calls are considered public records and are generally required to be released. Courier News v. Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, 358 N.J. Super. 373 (App. Div. 2003) (Prosecutor's Office was ordered to release audio of 911 call following indictment of defendant for murder). For that reason, we have released transcripts of those calls. However, because this is truly an ongoing investigation and no suspect has yet been identified, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3, we are withholding the audio of those calls for the reasons set forth above. Once an arrest is made or the investigation is closed, we will release the audio of those calls with the name of the juvenile female redacted.


RICHARD T. BURKE
Warren County Prosecutor

Dated: 5/10/12