

JUVENILE CONFIDENTIAL



Cornell Police Dept

Incident #: 22CO01002

Reporting Officer: Glenn Rehberg - COPD

Report Time: 12/01/2022 15:35:36

Incident

Incident Nature
Juvenile related cases

Address
708 BRIDGE ST; CORNELL MIDDLE AND
HIGH SCHOOL
CORNELL, Wisconsin 54732

Occurred From
12/01/2022 15:35:34

Occurred To
12/01/2022 15:35:34

Received By
Eric Walters

How Received
Officer Report

Contact
210

Disposition
Closed Case

Miscellaneous Entry

Disposition Date
12/20/2022

Cleared

Judicial Status

Cleared Date

Clearance
Report Taken

Cargo Theft Related

CORNELL HIGH SCHOOL

Complainant

Address
708 BRIDGE ST
CORNELL WI 54732

Phone
(715)861-6947

DOB

Sex

Race

Responding Officer(s)
Glenn Rehberg - COPD

Persons

PERSON, ZACHARIAH D
Father

[REDACTED]

ELLIOTT, DAVID R
Witness

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DEVEAU, MARINA L
Step-Mother

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BRAATEN, CRAIG A
Witness

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**CORNELL HIGH SCHOOL
Complainant**

Address
708 BRIDGE ST
CORNELL Wisconsin 54732

Phone
(715)861-6947

DOB

Race

Sex

Ethnicity

Height

Weight
0

Narratives

Original Narrative

12/01/2022 16:22:26

SUMMARY: [REDACTED] allegedly said he would shoot kids at Cornell High School.

On 12/1/22 at 2:52pm I missed a phone call from Principal Dave Elliott of Cornell High School. I returned his call just before 3:00pm and he told me he had a possible school threat that was being investigated. He had to attend a 3:00pm meeting but agreed to call me back after that meeting.

INITIAL INFORMATION:

He returned my call, and also present on his end of the line was Craig Braaten, another Cornell School District administrator. I was told that according to another student, [REDACTED] had made comments in social studies class about sneaking a gun into school, and that he has a gun he can easily access. Elliott said he used the Office of School Safety interview sheet for threat assessments to ask questions, and [REDACTED] said she sits in front of [REDACTED] in social studies. She heard him say that he would shoot kids, hide in a vent, and shoot more kids, and that "Cornell is going to be a graveyard." [REDACTED] provided the names of potential witnesses.

Braaten spoke to the other possible witnesses, identified as [REDACTED]. Braaten said that all four of them heard nothing, so they re-interviewed [REDACTED]. They learned that [REDACTED] would have knowledge of the event, as [REDACTED] reportedly called across the room to [REDACTED], asking if a metal detector would detect a specific type of weapon. [REDACTED] did not know what kind of weapon it was. Elliott and Braaten said they haven't spoken to [REDACTED], as his mother doesn't want [REDACTED] interviewed without her being present.

INVESTIGATIVE PLAN:

We discussed school safety and the investigative process. They said [REDACTED] would be suspended from school tomorrow pending investigation, but they said his father, [REDACTED], was difficult to reach. While I was on the phone with them they tried Zach's number, [REDACTED], which had a voicemail that wasn't set up. I said I would have the evening officer repeatedly try it this

evening, and stop by [REDACTED] residence on [REDACTED]. I said I would relay the school's message that [REDACTED] was not to come to school tomorrow, except for an appointment to be jointly interviewed (if possible) by school administration and myself. I also said I'd like to speak to [REDACTED] tomorrow morning.

CONTACT WITH STEPMOTHER:

At 4:10pm I tried calling Zach. I received a message that the voicemail was not set up and could not leave a message. At 4:11 I telephoned [REDACTED] number and spoke to Marina Deveau, verbally identified as [REDACTED] stepmother, with whom I had previous contact from another case involving [REDACTED]. I explained the situation and asked for a contact number for [REDACTED]. She said she could contact him via Snapchat. I said [REDACTED] was not to come to school tomorrow while this was figured out, as an excused absence, and that she and [REDACTED] should call me tomorrow to set up a time to speak at the high school with Elliott and myself. She agreed.

DISPOSITION:

Case remains open.

Chief Rehberg

Supplemental Narrative 12/02/2022 13:32:12 Glenn Rehberg - COPD

On 12/2/22 I went to the high school and spoke to Elliott and Braaten. Braaten told me he had since spoken to [REDACTED], to whom [REDACTED] had reportedly commented about metal detector capabilities in relation to specific weapons. Braaten said [REDACTED] had denied knowledge of any conversation about guns or metal detectors.

Braaten said that [REDACTED] seemed legitimately afraid of [REDACTED], but that in his experience her timeline of other events was sometimes unreliable. Braaten said he had spoken to her twice regarding this incident, however, and her story was relatively consistent.

INTERVIEW:

At 11:00am I met with Braaten, [REDACTED], and "step-mom" Marina in the high school office's conference room. I thanked them for coming in and explained that [REDACTED] was not under arrest. I said he didn't have to talk with me and was free to leave at any time if he wished. I asked if he knew why he'd been called in, and he said one of his friends had told him he had been accused of making statements about shooting up the school. I asked him if he had made any such statements, and he said he hadn't.

I reviewed [REDACTED] situation with him and Marina. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I re-visited the topic of school threats and asked at length about the possibility of conversations where he might have been overheard discussing guns, metal detectors, shooting, or any similar topic. He said he had spoken to a friend about the friend's deer hunting experience, and he said he'd spoken to another friend about the school's use of metal detectors for vaping devices. However, he said that was as far as either conversation went.

[REDACTED] said he enjoyed school. He said he has a girlfriend and was doing alright with his grades for the most part, though math was a struggle. He denied any real conflict with other students and was unable to name anyone with whom he had a significant falling-out or who might bear him ill will.

Marina asked about the particular complaint, and I said it involved both shooting the school and metal detectors, although I couldn't reveal the source. She wondered whether this was carry-over from [REDACTED] previous actions and expressed unhappiness that this may dog him. I explained that was why we were investigating it, but that previous behavior didn't necessarily implicate [REDACTED] in this instance. [REDACTED] revisited the issue of a friend saying [REDACTED] was being investigated, and a discussion ensued where Braaten affirmed that [REDACTED] name had never been mentioned during the interviews with other students. Thus, the question of why [REDACTED] had been told that he was the suspect, by one of his 'friends', was raised. However, [REDACTED] continued to deny any conversation involving these sensitive topics.

I asked [REDACTED] whether he'd been shooting lately, and he said he had with his father. I asked about weapon access and Marina said clearly and repeatedly that [REDACTED] did not have access and all firearms were secured--not because [REDACTED] wasn't trusted, but because of safety. She said [REDACTED] knew more about guns than most people, which she considered a good thing as it led to safe behavior. She said the firearms were stored in such a way that even attempted forced entry would not gain access.

I advised [REDACTED] to continue to monitor his conversations to ensure they remained appropriate, and again thanked them for coming in. I learned that [REDACTED] now had a personal cell phone, and that Marina had moved from [REDACTED]

REVIEW:

Braaten and I then reviewed the interview. I asked if teachers had been contacted during the school's threat assessment process and learned that only the teacher in the room when the threat had allegedly been made had been contacted. I suggested contacting all [REDACTED] other teachers to learn if they had additional relevant information, such as a fight between [REDACTED] and his girlfriend, etc. I was told this would be done.

I asked if I could speak to [REDACTED] myself as part of my due diligence, to determine what she heard directly, what she may have inferred, and what she may have merely suspected. Elliott said he phoned [REDACTED] father, Corey, who said he would confer with [REDACTED] mother. After some time passed there had yet to be a return phone call.

I reviewed the status with Elliott. He asked what threat level I assessed this at, and mentioned "none" for his level. I said that with the current information I deemed it low. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While Marina denied firearm access, this was

self-reported. Andrew's girlfriend was also potentially leaving the district in the near future. However, his comments had yet to be substantiated by any of the students near him when the comments were allegedly made, and the call-across-the-room to ██████ regarding a particular kind of weapon's ability to be detected by a metal detector was also unsubstantiated.

CORY DUCOMMUN CONTACT:

Later in the afternoon I received a phone call from Braaten advising that ██████ father had returned the call and was willing to speak out of school. I returned Cory's call around 2:30pm and he agreed to select a time with ██████ for Monday during the day, and contact me Monday morning to make that appointment.

DISPOSITION:

Case remains open for ██████ interview.

Chief Rehberg

Supplemental Narrative 12/05/2022 14:28:43 Glenn Rehberg - COPD

████████ INTERVIEW:

On 12/5/22 just before 1:00pm I met with ██████ and her father Cory, both verbally identified. I invited them into the recorded interview room where I took ██████ statement. That recording should be viewed for complete information.

Emma told me that last week she'd been seated in front of ██████ during history class when she heard him loudly ask ██████, across the room, whether a specific type of gun would be detected by a metal detector. ██████ replied something similar to, "Yeah I think so" and then "awkwardly" turned to another person and engaged in conversation. ██████ said that within a few minutes she emailed Mr. Elliott to inform him of this. After the class had worked for awhile, ██████ came over to ██████. ██████ said she wasn't sure how their conversation started, but she said she heard ██████ say he was going to sneak a gun into the school, shoot a bunch of kids, hide in a vent for a week, and then come out and shoot more kids. She also said he'd commented about how Cornell would be a "graveyard." ██████ said she didn't think she heard ██████ say anything in response, although he might have laughed along with this. ██████ seemed unexpectedly uncertain about this. She described ██████ comment as normal conversation for him, saying he frequently says inappropriate things.

I documented ██████ statement on a Voluntary Statement form, and made a few minor corrections she suggested when I asked her to review it for complete accuracy. After I made the corrections she signed the statement, which was witnessed by her father. I asked if there was anything else I should know, and she said ██████ recently broke up with his girlfriend. ██████

During our conversation I asked who was most likely to have heard ██████ statements. ██████ initially named about 10 kids. When I narrowed it down and asked who was in the immediate vicinity, ██████ sit right next to her, but she thought they were likely talking to other people and implied they mightn't have heard anything.

Case remains open pending further contact with the school.

Chief Rehberg

Supplemental Narrative 12/06/2022 07:30:59 Glenn Rehberg - COPD

On 12/6/22 around 7:20am I received a phone call from Elliott asking if there was any reason ██████ couldn't come back to school. I said I'd interviewed ██████ but hadn't been able to substantiate her story. I said I'd come to school later in the morning to speak with them regarding nearby students.

I spoke to Elliott and Braaten shortly after 8:00am and explained I hadn't been able to substantiate ██████ story, but that ██████ had identified ██████ as another student immediately present when ██████ made the alleged statements. They confirmed that ██████ hadn't been spoken with, and Braaten said he would do so.

I later spoke to Braaten, about an hour or so later. He said ██████ had not heard any such statements.

DISPOSITION:

Case closed as unsubstantiated.

Chief Rehberg