PRESS RELEASE

DATE: November 13, 2026
TO: Media
FROM: Chief Gregory Carney
RE: Bomb Threats at Freedom Area School District

The New Sewickley Township Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been investigating emailed bomb threats that have been received at the Freedom Area Senior High School. The initial threat was received on August 31, 2026. Since that time, threats have been received on seven additional days, with the most recent threat being received on November 3, 2026.

This morning, the New Sewickley Township Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department executed a search warrant at a residence in Freedom Borough. This search warrant was obtained and executed after an extensive investigation into the bomb threats that have been received by the Freedom Area School District. Electronic devices were seized during the search that relates to these bomb threats.

The investigation has shown that all threats that have been received by the Freedom Area School District since August 31, 2026, have originated outside of the United States. As a result of the investigation conducted by the New Sewickley Township Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and international law enforcement authorities, one (1) adult and one (1) juvenile were taken into custody outside of the United States by our international law enforcement partners.

Additionally, two juveniles, who are students at the Freedom Area School District, have been charged by the New Sewickley Township Police Department for their alleged involvement in the threats that were received by the Freedom Area School District. Because the individuals that have been charged by our agency are juveniles, no identifying information will be provided. Additionally, no identifying information will be provided for the two individuals taken into custody outside of the United States as there is an ongoing investigation.

Our primary concern is and has been the safety of the students and staff of the Freedom Area School District and our community. Each of these threats was taken seriously and was evaluated by local and federal law enforcement officials to determine the credibility of the threat. As the specifics of each threat vary slightly, actions taken by the school district and law enforcement also vary based upon the credibility of the threat and the specific information included in each threat. We have and will continue to take appropriate actions to ensure the continuation of a safe learning environment in the Freedom Area School District. We will continue to work hand-in hand with our federal and international law enforcement partners. We have and will continue to pursue full accountability for anyone who threatens the safety of our students or community.

This investigation highlights the levels of success that can be accomplished when law enforcement from multiple agencies works together. During this investigation, we have been assisted by numerous law enforcement agencies at the local, state, federal, and international level. We would like to sincerely thank those agencies and officers who have and continue to work with us during the investigation. This outcome would not have been possible without the dedicated service of many individuals from these numerous law enforcement organizations.

We would also like to thank the administration and staff of the Freedom Area School District for their continued cooperation and support throughout this investigation.