

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

News Release

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SUMMIT, NJ, October 18, 2023

JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT: Summit Police Department and Summit Public Schools

Dear Summit Community,

We are writing to inform you of an ongoing situation that has necessitated precautionary measures to ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, and residents.

Earlier today, the Summit Police Department received reports of a suspicious individual described as a white or Hispanic male, aged between 30 to 40 years, wearing camouflage, carrying a black backpack with what appeared to be a long gun over his shoulder. This individual was last spotted in the vicinity of Summit Avenue and Walnut Street walking toward Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School.

As a result of this information and out of an abundance of caution, both Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School and Brayton School were placed on alert, and a shelter-in-place order was issued. Neighboring schools, Summit Free Public Library and houses of worship were notified. We took these measures to prioritize the safety of our students and staff while the Summit Police Department conducts a thorough investigation and search for this individual.

School dismissal will proceed as normal with a police presence at all public and private schools.

We urge all community members to remain vigilant. If you see an individual fitting this description, please do not approach him. Instead, immediately call 911.

We understand that situations like this can be distressing, and we appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work to ensure the safety of everyone involved. Both the Summit Police Department and Summit Public Schools are committed to the security of our community and will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Steven Zagorski, Chief of Police, Summit Police Department

Scott Hough, Superintendent, Summit Public Schools

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