



Press Release

Date: 3/3/2018

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Original

AGENCY: CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF: JIM OLSON (802JK)
CLASSIFICATION: DISTURBANCE
LOCATION: CHANHASSEN, MN
TELEPHONE: 952-361-1212

Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson reports on February 28, 2018, sheriff's deputies investigated an incident near the businesses located at MN 7 and MN 41 in Chanhassen wherein the reporting party stated she had read a social media posting alleging an attempted kidnapping on February 26, 2018, in the parking lot adjacent to the businesses.

During the investigation into the allegation, sheriff's deputies learned a citizen had posted a notice of the alleged attempted kidnapping on a neighborhood website that is used as an online bulletin board for neighbors to share information with one another. In checking police records, sheriff's deputies noted the matter had not been reported to law enforcement.

Deputies were able to identify the person who had posted the content and interviewed her related to the posting. She asserted she was posting information shared with her by the alleged victim of the kidnapping attempt. She believed she was sharing the information in good faith, but without knowing all of the facts.

Deputies contacted the alleged victim and learned there was, in fact, no attempted kidnapping and the posting was inaccurate. Deputies further learned the woman had observed suspicious behavior in the parking lot and it caused her concern, but that she was not assaulted, threatened or harmed in any way. She acknowledged she had reported the incident to a co-worker who misconstrued the information and posted incorrect information to the neighborhood website.

Sheriff Olson says, "First, I am so grateful this was not an actual attack and that everyone is safe. Social media is a wonderful tool for sharing information, and this event underscores the need for ensuring the information we share on social media is accurate and correct. Many in the community were unnecessarily alarmed because of this posting. I trust our investigation and release of its findings will put peoples' minds at ease."

Sheriff's deputies have arranged for all known postings of the information to be removed.

If you need assistance from police, fire or medical personnel call 9-1-1. Anyone with information related to this incident or any crime is asked to contact the Carver County Sheriff's Office at 952-361-1231 or use the tip line 952-361-1224. Our tip form is at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/county-sheriff/crime-prevention/crime-tips>