



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Warren Police Warn of Increase in “Swatting” Calls – Several calls under active investigation**

The Warren Police Department would like to provide important information to the community regarding a recent and significant influx of "swatting" incidents targeting local residences and businesses.

"Swatting" is the act of placing a fraudulent 911 call reporting a fake emergency such as a home invasion, active shooter, or hostage situation with the intent of drawing a heavy, armed police response to a specific location. Given that these false calls are intended to elicit a tactical response, the practice has become widely known across the county as "swatting."

In the past few weeks, the Warren Police Department has responded to several instances determined to be "swatting" calls. These calls have been to both residences and businesses in Warren. These incidents are far from harmless pranks. "Swatting" incidents represent a severe threat to public safety and the community by endangering innocent lives, as deploying tactical responses to unsuspecting residents creates a volatile environment. In addition, "swatting" places a significant strain on emergency resources by diverting officers, paramedics, and dispatchers away from real-world life-threatening emergencies.

The Warren Police Department wants the community to know that all "swatting" calls are diligently investigated by the Detective Bureau. Any individual found responsible for a "swatting" call will face felony charges as well as court-ordered financial restitution to cover the response costs of first responders. We encourage residents to talk to family members, especially teenagers and young adults, about the dangers of "swatting." Should a swatting call ever be directed at your home, please remember that arriving officers must treat the report as a legitimate threat until the scene is fully secured. By remaining calm and following officers' instructions, residents help our officers resolve the situation as quickly and safely as possible.

"Swatting is a reckless abuse of the 911 system that diverts life-saving resources away from those truly in need. We are committed to using every available resource to identify these callers and hold them responsible. Aside from the strain on public safety resources, these incidents are an intrusion on the peace of our residents and businesses. By educating the community about these incidents and remaining calm during police responses, we can all ensure that our life-saving resources are available for those in genuine need," said Police Commissioner Eric Hawkins.

**For further information, please contact Warren Police Commissioner  
Eric Hawkins @ 586-574-4803**