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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In the past 24 hours the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office, in conjunction with the School Safety Task Force, authorized charges against nine juvenile offenders for a variety of threats made involving local schools. These offenders range in age from 12 to 14. The charges against them include Disturbing the Peace, Intentional Threats Against a School or Student, Attempted False Report or Threat of Terrorism, and False Report or Threat of Terrorism. The affected school districts are Mona Shores, Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Reeths Puffer, Oakridge and Whitehall. Court proceedings against five of the offenders were initiated today with home confinement ordered in those cases including strict conditions prohibiting the use of social media. Proceedings for the remaining four offenders will be scheduled in the coming days. Further details regarding these offenders cannot be given for privacy reasons at this time.

The investigations into these matters are ongoing and the Prosecutor's Office wishes to reiterate that anyone engaged in threats of violence against a school or its students will be dealt with swiftly and severely. In addition, we would like to remind members of the public that sharing social media postings containing threats can also contribute to the spread of those threats and possibly result in charges as well. If you have information regarding a threat, please contact law enforcement immediately and do not share that information on social media. The Prosecutor's Office and local law enforcement remain vigilant in our commitment to providing a safe environment for our children and continue to request the assistance of the community towards achieving that goal.