



Social Media Threat Involving Potential Violence at Paloma Valley High School

September 9, 2021 – At approximately 3:30 PM, the Menifee Police Department (MPD) received a call for service from a concerned parent regarding threatening statements posted to social media. The person responsible for the post indicated they were on their way to Paloma Valley High School. Officers and Detectives immediately responded to the school.

Detectives began to investigate the source of the threats and to determine if the threats were credible. MPD detectives authored search warrants for the social media account used to disseminate the threats. Upon getting the search warrants approved, detectives were able to identify 20-year-old Julianna Ortega from Menifee. Ortega is known to MPD from recent contacts, and it was also discovered she graduated from Paloma Valley High School in 2018.

Further investigation revealed Ortega was driving around Menifee in her car. Detectives and patrol officers located Ortega driving near Haun Road and Newport Road. A vehicle stop was conducted, and Ortega was detained as the sole occupant of the vehicle. Ortega admitted to posting the threatening statements on social media. It was determined that Ortega acted alone and did not have the current means to act on the stated threats.

Ortega was arrested for felony threats related to a school, PC 422.2 (a). She was booked into custody at the Cois Byrd Detention Center.

MPD wants everyone to know that all threats, especially those directed at school grounds, will be taken seriously. This includes threats to use firearms, other weapons, physical assault, or any other illegal activity. There is no such thing as a joke when it comes to these types of threats.

Student safety is a top priority for MPD and all three school districts within the City of Menifee. Having said that, we cannot do it alone. Student safety is everyone's responsibility. We encourage anyone who may have information that could jeopardize the safety of a student to immediately report it to school administrators and the police.

