

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

**Owatonna Police Department
204 East Pearl Street
Owatonna, MN 55060**



For Release Immediately

February 11, 2019

**Keith E. Hiller
CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Further Information Contact

Chief Keith Hiller

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On Monday, February 11, 2019, at 1147 hours, the Owatonna Police Department (OPD) responded to a reported fight at the office at the Owatonna High School, 333 East School, Owatonna. The OPD was assisted by the Minnesota State Patrol and Steele County Sheriff's Office.

Law enforcement officials arrived and observed a large group of students shouting and being disruptive in the commons area and gymnasium. For the safety of the students and staff a lock-down was ordered by school staff. Not all students were cooperative.

At this time, no students have reported any injuries. At this time, we are not aware of any physical altercations between students.

Initial reports indicate a few white students posted racist comments on social media directed towards our black students. The hateful post(s) are being investigated as part of the ongoing investigation.

There were social media report of weapons being involved in this disturbance; these reports are erroneous.

Gold Cross paramedics also responded to the high school for medical emergencies not related to any assault.

A juvenile was taken into custody for assaulting a partnering law enforcement officer. A second juvenile was taken into custody for obstructing legal process. A third juvenile was cited and released for trespassing. These cases are currently under investigation.

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