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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OSHKOSH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Date: 10/22/2024 Time: 3:30 PM

Contact: Officer Kate Mann

Public Affairs/ Crime Prevention

(920)236-5742

Subject: Disturbance with Airsoft Weapon

OSHKOSH, WI (October 22, 2024): The Oshkosh Police Department investigated a disturbance involving a facsimile weapon that occurred in the 1500 Block of Taft Avenue in the City of Oshkosh.

Today at approximately 12:35 PM, Officers were dispatched to a disturbance taking place in the Skate Park (1570 Taft Avenue) involving several juveniles. It was reported that one of the juveniles had displayed a handgun. The group of juveniles involved in the disturbance then ran to the 1000 Block of N Lark Street. While at that location, a 16-year-old male from Oshkosh took out the facsimile handgun and was pointing it at several people and threatening to kill them. When a police officer from the Oshkosh Police Department located this male and attempted to make contact, the male fled from the officer. After a short foot pursuit, the male was taken into custody for Disorderly Conduct, Resisting an Officer, and seven counts of Recklessly Endangering Safety. During this incident, Oshkosh West High School was placed in a secure status for approximately 15 minutes. No one was injured during this disturbance.

Facsimile or replica handguns can be easily mistaken for real firearms by law enforcement officers and the general public due to their realistic appearance. This can quickly escalate situations and lead to potentially tragic outcomes during disturbances. We strongly encourage parents to be aware of the risks associated with their children having facsimile weapons.

The safety of our citizens is our top priority. If anyone has information regarding this incident, they are encouraged to contact the <u>Oshkosh Police Department</u> at 920-236-5700. If you have information about this incident, but wish to remain anonymous, please contact the Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477; or through the P3 App.