



## Media Release

#18-001

October 24, 2018

### Tulalip Police Department

Chris Sutter  
Chief of Police

Approved by: *Chris Sutter*

#### **SUBJECT: Tulalip Police Response to Reported Threat**

On Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Tulalip Police Department received a phone call from SNO-PAC, the regional public safety communications center that dispatches 911 calls for Snohomish County. The call described two armed men, in camouflage, walking towards the Betty J. Taylor Tulalip Early Learning Academy.

"When we received a call about a potential threat to children, we immediately dispatched all available Patrol staff and Fish and Wildlife staff to the area," described Tulalip Police Chief Chris Sutter. "Our officers prioritized children's safety by reaching out and initiating a lockdown at both the Betty J. Taylor Early Learning Academy and the Tulalip Boys and Girls Club."

Staff at the Karen I. Fryberg Tulalip Health Clinic contacted Tulalip Police and also went into lockdown for the safety of staff and patients.

After police officers cleared both campuses and searched nearby trails, they released the lockdown, but stayed onsite while parents picked up their children from both locations. Officers did not find the two men described in the report.

Notification was sent out about the incident by Tulalip News Facebook page. Chief Sutter said that the Police Department is working with Emergency Management and Communications to refine future notifications and outreach to Tulalip citizens.

"We are committed to the safety first," said Chief Sutter. "We take the calls we receive very seriously and we always prioritize the safety of children. We are incorporating the feedback we received to improve the way we communicate with our Reservation's residents and citizens. We look forward to working with our citizens and tribal departments to make this Reservation a safe and healthy place to live and work."

"This was a win, in our opinion," Chief Sutter continued. "Our officers responded quickly and efficiently and at the end of the day everyone was safe. We heard later that several Departments in the area had not been contacted. We will work with our teams to improve our processes. I want to commend everyone involved for their care, patience and dedication to the safety of the children and people we serve."

The Betty J. Taylor Tulalip Early Learning Academy currently has an emergency procedure in place for lockdowns and other emergencies. The Tulalip Emergency Management Department, utilizing those procedures as a foundation, is drafting the Tulalip Tribes Emergency Procedures Guidelines which will address active shooter situations and other emergency scenarios for all Tribal Government departments.

For more information about the Tulalip Police Department contact Joseph Dyer at [JGDyer@tulaliptribalpolice.org](mailto:JGDyer@tulaliptribalpolice.org) or 360-716-4608.