

10/5/2016

To the Township of Hanover Community:

I'm sure that many of you have heard about the current "clown phenomena" that has been circulating nationwide, primarily through social media. There have been recent reports of clown sightings in nearby communities as well as social media threats to some schools outside of Morris County by a person, or persons, portraying themselves as a clown. Also, there have been some reports of a person, or persons, dressed as a clown attempting to lure children into the woods. These reports are based in Southern New Jersey and have yet to be verified. While it appears that a good portion of these sightings and threats being posted on social media are re-circulated posts and hoaxes from other counties and states, please be assured that the Township of Hanover Police Department will be taking a proactive approach in dealing with these incidents should they occur in our Township. While individuals have a right to dress up as a clown they do not have the right to harass, intimidate, or act in a manner which can be articulated as being threatening to members of the public. We will deal with any violations of the law accordingly. The key component in our proactive approach is our partnership with the community requiring that "if you see something, say something." Please never hesitate to contact this department if you ever have any concerns, issues, etc. This applies not only to this issue but any other matters of concern to you.

Thank you,

Chief Mark D. Roddy

Township of Hanover Police Department