



**CITY OF RED BLUFF
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**RED BLUFF JOINT UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**RED BLUFF JOINT UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

A Red Bluff Police School Resource Officer initiated an investigation and developed information that 18-year old Joshua Guthrie, also an RBHS student, was involved in sexual acts with a minor and in possession of explicit images of several high school girls. The subsequent investigation into Guthrie has revealed he has had sexual relations with numerous minors from the ages of 14-17 years old and was in possession of sexually explicit images of several more female students. Guthrie was interviewed in regards to the allegations against him and was arrested on Tuesday, May 2nd 2017.

The term “sexting” is one every parent and child should be familiar with. The term describes the act of taking a sexually explicit photo of one’s self and sending it to another. Many times the act is voluntary, but often times it involves coercion, extortion, and blackmail. An image sent to one individual can easily be shared with another without the knowledge of the original person from whom the image was captured. This image can later be used nefariously to again extort and blackmail the victim. In the eyes of the law this amounts to the production, possession and distribution of child pornography and this matter has been taken very seriously by the Red Bluff Police Department and the Red Bluff Joint Union High School District.

The Red Bluff Police Department has dedicated two school resource officers and the investigative unit to this investigation which has become more complex. It has led to the discovery of the wide spread problem of “sexting” and the unwanted distribution of the pornographic images within the Red Bluff High School student body. Investigators have identified numerous minors who have shared images and some who have cooperatively collected and shared sexually explicit images among various groups. As investigators continue to dig, more and more involved parties are discovered. Additional arrests may come in the near future, but realistically not all victims or suspects will be identified.

What the Red Bluff Police Department has learned over that last week is “sexting” is a pervasive problem in our community which can affect the lives of our children now and for years to come. The Police Department is working cooperatively with the Red Bluff High School District to put a stop to the current behavior but recognize education and prevention strategies must be developed to protect our children. Both Red Bluff High School and the Police Department are asking parents to start a dialog with their child regarding “sexting” to the extent they are knowledgeable and if they are concerned their child may have been victimized to contact the Red Bluff Police Department.

The Red Bluff Police Department and Red Bluff High School District will be taking the lead in developing a taskforce of City and County educators, administrators and law enforcement who will be tasked with developing an effective and timely strategy to respond to this problem within our community. More information will be provided to the media, through school announcements, and in town hall meetings as it becomes available.