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PRESS RELEASE

Theft of Street Signs

- On September 5th, 2018 Oldham County Road Department (OCRD), informed the Oldham County Police Department (OCPD) that approximately 80 street signs had been stolen and/or removed from the sign posts. OCRD noticed several signs missing in August 2018 and became suspicious after realizing that it appeared to be an ongoing issue.

- Oldham County Police issued a press release, and contacted Kentuckiana Crime Stoppers, regarding the theft of street signs and encouraged anyone with information to contact us. Detectives then learned of a "challenge" that was being circulated through a social media site, Snap Chat, in which students from the Oldham County School districts would steal street signs and/or remove them from their posts, and document their actions on the social media site.

- Suspects were identified through investigation and from a tip received through Crime Stoppers. Detectives obtained search warrants for their social media accounts and discovered pictures of stolen street signs, along with video evidence of at least one juvenile ripping a sign off the sign post. Text messages between students made reference to the stolen street signs on multiple occasions.

- A total of 31 juveniles from Oldham County were identified as being involved or having knowledge of the crimes.

- Currently 18 juveniles have been charged with Theft by Unlawful Taking Under $500 (KRS 514.030) and Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree (KRS 512.040). These charges are the result of over 150 investigative hours by Oldham County Police Detectives and Officers.

- The Oldham County Road Department estimated that between 60 & 70 street signs have been replaced at a cost of approximately $3,000 and a total of 30 hours worked.

- We do not anticipate any additional criminal charges in this investigation.

IF ANYONE SHOULD HAVE ANY INFORMATION IN THIS CASE, OR ANY OTHER CASE, PLEASE CONTACT THE OLDHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 502.222.1300 OR WWW.OLDHAMCOUNTYPOLICE.COM.

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