PRESS RELEASE (22-00585)

On April 20, 2022, officers with the Lakeway Police Department responded to 1501 Lohmans Crossing (Little Sunshine's Playhouse and Preschool) in reference to an incident involving a juvenile shooting what was initially described as a "BB gun." According to staff members, a juvenile was observed in an adjacent lot with a toy gun. Staff members reported hearing pellets landing on the property of the preschool and verbally confronted the juvenile. Out of caution, the preschool children were brought back into the school and placed into "lock-down" until the matter could be addressed. Staff called 911 and requested officers respond to investigate the incident.

Upon their arrival, officers located the juvenile and the grandparents of the juvenile. Officers determined the juvenile was using a toy gun designed to shoot soft silicone balls often referred to as "Orbeez." During the investigation, Detectives learned that three children from the preschool reported being struck by projectiles, but none complained of injury, according to their parents. Detectives later interviewed the juvenile's grandparents, the juvenile, and a nearby witness to gather as much information as possible regarding the juvenile's intent. Detectives found no indication the juvenile was a continuing threat to public peace and safety.

Detectives also collected the toy gun used in the incident and performed controlled testing to determine its range and potential for injury at various distances. The testing determined that, at the range involved in the incident, the pellets would be unlikely to cause pain or injury.

Detectives sent the case to the Travis County District Attorney's Office (Juvenile Division), but they declined to pursue criminal charges. The case has been closed.

Reference Case #22-00585

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