

“20081700: On August 13, 2020, at 12:26 p.m., we responded to a report of an underage female having sex with adult. We will be investigating the case to determine if a crime has been committed and if we can prove that crime. You would think having sex with an underage juvenile would always be a crime. Not necessarily. There are a number of factors involved in deciding whether to file charges to include the age of those involved. Fortunately, determining the age difference of those involved doesn’t involve complex math, so we should be able to figure it out without too much trouble. Just as long as we have coffee and donuts (the ones with the little sprinkles on top) to get us through.”

The below response represents the perspective of Community Safety Network Board and Staff.

On August 13th, JH Police Department published a blotter post regarding a report of alleged statutory rape where the investigation of the crime was described as one that “doesn’t involve complex math” and calling for donuts and coffee to “get us through.” Community Safety Network is a non-profit that has been serving survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and stalking in partnership with law enforcement for the last 40 years. As advocates, Community Safety Network condemns this post as inexcusable and directly harmful to survivors of violence. Humor is never appropriate surrounding the ongoing reality of sexual assault and gender-based violence. Moving forward, we believe a deeper relationship between law enforcement and Community Safety Network has the potential to significantly improve survivor experiences and make our community safer.



Sexual assault is pervasive—every 73 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted, and every 9 minutes, that victim is a child. We live in a society that normalizes and perpetuates this violence, and Teton County is no exception. The minimization of sexual violence by law enforcement directly impacts survivors and their search for justice and healing. This blotter post communicates to this specific individual, and all past and future survivors, that law enforcement will not take their experience seriously. It discourages reporting, and therefore limits accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence and judicial resolution for survivors.

We encourage law enforcement to initiate the following steps to demonstrate a desire to repair the harm done by this post. These actions will illustrate a commitment to a cultural shift within their department that is supportive of survivors of sexual violence. First, we encourage law enforcement to issue a genuine apology that comes from a place of learning and responsibility for harm done. Second, we advocate for the police blotter to report sexual assault, intimate partner violence or stalking statistically, rather than in a descriptive

style. Third, Community Safety Network expects that law enforcement will take the initiative to undergo extensive training in survivor-centered practices and trauma responses.

Believing survivors, empathizing with their experiences and advocating for their self-directed path to healing defines Community Safety Network's mission. We hope you will join us in this, as we cannot do the work alone. For support for yourself or others, CSN is available 24/7, every day at 307-733-SAFE.

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