

Clarification regarding false report of a downtown shooting

Today, the Columbia Police Department received multiple inquiries about an alleged shooting involving a 17-year-old in downtown Columbia which occurred at 7:13 a.m. We want to be clear: **there was not a shooting and no calls for service related to a shooting in downtown Columbia today.**

We became aware that the false information circulating online appears to be linked to Facebook posts and AI-generated crime apps that are distributing inaccurate content. As we traced the source, we reviewed the app *CrimeRadar*, which has a documented history of inaccuracies. The information being shared today appears to be an incorrect transcription of a dispatch from another jurisdiction.

The app cited multiple counties as its “source,” including:

- **Randolph County** — north of Columbia
- **Jackson County** — Kansas City metro area
- **Perry County** — southeast Missouri
- **“Genevieve County”** — which does not exist (there *is* a Ste. Genevieve County in southeast Missouri)

These inconsistencies alone strongly indicate the information did not originate from Columbia, Missouri.

We are seeing an increase in AI-powered apps that claim to monitor police dispatch in real time. While they may seem helpful, these tools often rely on incomplete data, lack context, and can easily spread misinformation. They are not connected to verified law enforcement systems, and their automated outputs can mislabel incidents, misidentify locations, or amplify unverified rumors, creating unnecessary fear and confusion.

Disseminating unverified information about potential threats to public safety is irresponsible and undermines public trust. Responsible journalism, or any information source that claims to be credible, must verify facts before reporting on events.

For accurate, timely public safety information, please rely on official law enforcement channels and reputable news sources. Staying informed matters, but staying informed accurately matters even more.

- Jill Schlude, Chief of Police