



Robbinsville Township Police Department

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William G. Swanhart III
Chief of Police



For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 23, 2026

Subject: RTPD Safely Locates Missing Special Needs Juvenile

ROBBINSVILLE, NJ - On Sunday, March 22, 2026, at approximately 7:20 p.m., the Robbinsville Township Police Department received a 911 call reporting a missing 17-year-old autistic male.

The caller reported that the juvenile became upset following a disturbance and left a residence located on Robbinsville Edinburg Road in Robbinsville Township. The subject was last seen heading southwest into a nearby cornfield toward a wooded area. Responding officers obtained all available details from the caller and immediately initiated a search.

Search efforts were quickly challenged by darkness and the concerns of approaching severe weather. In response, a command post was established, and additional resources were requested to assist in the operation. RTPD deployed its K-9 Unit, including K-9 Officer Matthew Hill and K-9 ACE, for tracking purposes. The Mercer County Drone Task Force was activated, along with Robbinsville Fire Department Station 40. A coordinated briefing was conducted, after which personnel deployed two drones, a fire department brush truck equipped with thermal imaging cameras, and additional patrol units. The drones rapidly identified a heat signature using aerial thermal imaging and relayed the location to the Incident Command Post. Robbinsville Fire Department personnel and patrol officers were directed to the area, where they confirmed the individual as the missing juvenile.

Officers safely located and returned the juvenile to the residence uninjured prior to the arrival of severe weather.

The Robbinsville Police Department extends its sincere gratitude to the Robbinsville Fire Department and the Mercer County Drone Task Force, particularly the Hopewell Police Department, for their assistance and continued partnership. Their coordinated efforts were critical in ensuring the safe and successful resolution of this incident.

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