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Yik Yak threat suspect arraigned

BY AARON BOEHM | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH 2015

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The Dickinson County man was arraigned in the Houghton County District Court. He stood mute to the charges.

The courtroom was packed with students and community members. A lot of students and community members were on hand to witness the arraignment. Matthew Shultz from Norway, Michigan was charged with disturbing the peace. He's alleged to have posted a message on Yik Yak saying, "Gonna shoot all black people." It allegedly originated from Michigan Tech's campus, via the anonymous social media site last Thursday.

He could face up to 90 days in jail.

Since the threat, there's been an outpouring of support from the community including a student led peace march that happened last night.

"Us as administration and leaders here at Michigan Tech know that we need to stand with our students and provide them support so that their voices are heard," said John Lehman, associate vice president of student enrollment. "When they want to say, we are not going to stand for threats of violence against our family."

Over 200 people marched from Michigan Tech's campus, through downtown Houghton to the Houghton County Courthouse. They were protesting the lack of severe charges made by the Houghton County Prosecuting Attorney as black students say their lives are not a joke.

"The black community and the minority community need to be re-insured that we can be here and justice will take place when something happens or threatened our lives," said Wesley McGowan, Michigan Tech student.

"Bullets don't see color, so a threat is not just towards the black community, it's towards the community at large," said Christina Welch, MTU student.

But during the arraignment, the prosecutor said the case is still under investigation and could lead to new charges being added or have the disturbing the peace charge dropped completely.

"I'm hoping that he comes back with a more severe charge just like other prosecutors have done at other universities that this exact same threat has happened to," McGowan added.

The prosecutor says he'll be issuing a press release Tuesday on any changes to Matthew Shultz's charges. Shultz is free on a \$500 bond.

[Click here](#) to sign the petition created by Michigan Tech University's black students to help change Shultz's charge.