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## Police: Reports of additional area abduction attempts are false, investigation continues

Posted October 19, 2009 12:19 PM

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A sketch of the suspect in an alleged attempted abduction of a Natick middle school boy was released late Friday. (Courtesy: Natick Police Department / Sketch by Jack Skinner of the Concord Police Department)

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Town and state police said Monday they're continuing to investigate an alleged attempted abduction of a Natick middle-school boy walking home from school last week who said he was approached by a middle-aged man in a white minivan.

At around 2:15 p.m. on Oct. 14, a man in a minivan parked alongside the road where the boy was walking on Eastleigh Lane near Windsor Avenue rolled down the van's window and said "Hello. I am Mr. Smith. Your Mom told me

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DOWN THE VAN'S WINDOW AND SAID, "HERE, I AM THE DRIVER. YOU MUST TALK TO ME to take you out to eat before she got home," according to Lt. Brian Grasse.

The boy, who was on his way home after getting off of the school bus, challenged the operator asking if they knew each other, police said. Then, feeling uncomfortable, the child ran home, and the van turned and drove away, said Grasse.

Natick police were notified about 45 minutes after the incident occurred and he said, as of Monday morning, there have not been any attempted abductions since.

However, police have learned of at least four false reports of additional abduction attempts, which are being shared by area residents through e-mail, Grasse said.

Reports of incidents which do not come from, or are not verified by, town or state police can be harmful, he said, and asked that anyone who hears such claims to call Natick police at 508-647-9500 before further passing along potentially false information.

Police do not believe the rumors are being spread maliciously, but rather from concerned parents.

"It's an event that we're taking very seriously. They're just trying to be good parents and look out for the safety of their children," said Grasse.

The man is described as a white male in his 40's, with dark hair that went over his ears, was longer in the back and had long bangs that looked wet and were brushed flat down to the eyebrows. He had skinny arms, a deep voice, some dark facial hair, looked unshaven for a day or two, and was wearing wire-rimmed glasses, according to police who interviewed the boy Wednesday.

A sketch of the suspect was released late Friday.

The boy stated that the van is an older model minivan with tinted windows and mud on the lower part of it, police said. The rear passenger side tire looked to the boy like a replacement tire, while the other three wheels had silver hub caps. Hanging on the rear view mirror was a necklace with a troll doll with green hair. The driver leaned over and motioned as if he had to use a window crank.

A few images of white vans were captured by surveillance cameras near the area of the incident. The images released Thursday are classified as, "similar" to the van the boy saw.

The man never got out of the vehicle and the boy is doing fine, police said.

Any parties who may be able to provide information are asked to contact Natick Police Detectives 508-647-9520.

"If the call goes to voicemail no caller ID is recorded," said Grasse in an e-mail press release. "If desired, anonymity is assured to any individual providing information."



Divar name:	DIVAR	Camera input:	1
MAC address:	00-04-63-00-29-86	Unique ID:	A2B1C466
Recording mode:	Continuous	Image size:	720(H) x 486(V)
Camera name:	CAMERA 1	Compression:	0.86 bpp
Date and time:	2009-10-14 02:10:54 PM	Image format:	4:2:2 wavelet compressed
Events:	None	Authenticity:	Image is authentic

A surveillance camera captured an image of a van similar to the one driven by a man who allegedly attempted to abduct a middle school boy in Natick yesterday. (Courtesy: Natick Police Department)

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#### 4 COMMENTS SO FAR...

1. I find it pretty impressive that this young boy was able to describe all the details the article listed. We should all be so observant.  

Posted by Anna October 16, 09 10:13 AM
2. Anna: I completely agree! Very observant boy-good job.  

Posted by aj1976 October 16, 09 11:43 AM
3. The story states that the rear passenger side tire looked like a replacement tire, while the other 3 tires had silver hub caps. The picture shows what is suspected to be the actual minivan from the passenger side and the rear tire has a silver hub. Could you please confirm if the replacement tire was on the passenger or driver side? People should have as much accurate info as possible to help identify this vehicle.  

Posted by PC October 16, 09 01:35 PM
4. way to go young man - the fact he was able to get all the details about this degenerate (and he sounds like a complete creep based on the description) is awesome...get this low life off the streets...  

Posted by peakbagger1975 October 16, 09 03:28 PM

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