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## News Release

09/13/2022

### Information on Attempted Kidnappings

On September 8<sup>th</sup> around 9:00 p.m., Officers were dispatched to the 1500-block of W. Louisiana St. for an attempted kidnapping. An adult female was walking, and reported being followed by a 'newer red 4-door passenger car' driven by a male. The victim was observant and noticed the vehicle following her, as well as retaining a description of the driver. The male exited his vehicle and began to chase the victim. The victim saw someone outside and asked them to call 9-1-1. While being chased, she noticed the male grab at his waistband, and felt that he may be implying that he had a handgun. When officers arrived, they were unable to locate the male. Detectives canvassed the area and were able to use surveillance footage to identify the vehicle involved and also a name for the registered owner of the vehicle. Over the weekend, Detectives and Officers located the male believed to be involved in this incident. He was transported to EPD headquarters to be questioned. Once the male was read his Miranda Warning, he asked for an attorney and was released. Our Detective Office is confident that the male in question is the offender and that an attempted kidnapping did occur, however, they did not have enough corroborating evidence to file charges at the time of questioning. This is still an open investigation and we are still attempting to gather the additional evidence needed to make an arrest. We have attached a photo of the vehicle that the suspect occupied at the time of the crime, it is a red four door Dodge Dart.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> around 6:00 p.m., Officers were dispatched to the area of Boeke Ave and Adams Ave for another report of an attempted kidnapping. The reporter stated that she observed two males, 'believed to be Haitian' in a green van attempt to get a female juvenile into their van. Officers were on scene in less than two minutes. After officers arrived and spoke with the victim, it was found that the occupants of the van never spoke to the juvenile or attempted to touch her. At one point the juvenile felt as if the passenger 'may get out of the van' but never did. The reporter also told officers that she believed the van was going to be involved in a kidnapping, due to seeing them driving slowly in the area around her daughter last week, and called 911 trying to protect the juvenile. The van was located by officers at a separate location. Both occupants of the vehicle stated 'they were in the area where the attempted kidnapping reportedly occurred, but were only driving to their destination and never interacted with the juvenile.' After speaking to all of the involved parties, there was no information that validated that an attempted kidnapping occurred. Both of these runs appear to be unrelated and have separate case numbers (22-17989 and 22-18243 respectively).

With both of these instances occurring in the past week, we are thankful that no one has been physically injured as a result of either of these runs. We are also grateful for the witnesses and reporters that played an integral part in both runs. We take runs like these very seriously and utilize all resources available to us to handle the runs appropriately and quickly. One report of this, is one report too many. We would like the public to keep in mind if you see something suspicious – say something. If you are outdoors, attempt to walk and park your vehicle in well-lit areas. Let those closest to you know where you intend to go and when you arrive. If you feel unsafe, preferably dial 9-1-1, or keep someone on the phone with you until you arrive at a safe location.

**Anyone with information concerning this incident is asked to call the Evansville Police Detective Office (812) 436-7979 or the tip line (812) 435-6194**



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