



Tigard Police Department

Media Release

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Elementary School Student Approached By Stranger In Van

Tigard Police would like to take this opportunity to remind parents the importance of speaking to their children regarding safety. Children should be encouraged to be alert and to know what steps to take in the event they find themselves in a situation that could be uncomfortable or possibly harmful.

Tigard Police obtained information from an elementary school-aged child reporting being approached by a stranger who offered a ride home, as well as some toys. The incident occurred on January 3, within walking distance of Mary Woodward Elementary School in Tigard. The student was walking home along Katherine St. near 125th Ave. when the incident occurred.

The child reported to police that the suspect was driving a white, work-type van. The child believes the windows were tinted, as well as a tarp covering the rear windows. The suspect is described as a white male, approximately 30 years of age, with a short, salt and pepper-colored beard. The van had a dent in the rear and displayed an Oregon license plate with a tree emblem. The child was not harmed and was able to run and get to a safe location.

If anyone observed a similar vehicle around the time and in the area of the incident, they are urged to contact the Tigard Police tip line at 503-718-COPS (2677) or via email at tips@tigard-or.gov

Once again, the importance of children doing the right thing, such as what is being reported here is paramount. The student acted on solid instincts and remained observant. Encourage your children to be aware of their surroundings, avoid being alone if possible, and know what to do if they are approached or become targets of unwanted contact.