



POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICERS CALLED TO SCHOOL FOR POSSIBLE ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – May 25, 2021 – On Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at about 12:45 pm, Athens Police Officers were dispatched to the area of the McMinn Soccer Complex on McMinn Avenue in reference to an Athens Middle School student who claimed a man tried to abduct her.

Upon arrival, they learned that a twelve-year old female reported that she believed a man had tried to abduct her. Students and faculty from the school were on the soccer field when the student went to the bathrooms near the edge of the field. She advised that a man came from the back side of the bathroom and approached her. She advised that she ran from him when he tried to grab her.

The student reported the man was a white male, approximately 40-50 years of age. He was allegedly wearing a brown raincoat and black shoes. He may have been wearing gloves. The young lady immediately told a teacher and school staff immediately contacted law enforcement.

A different student also reported seeing the male. He gave a similar clothing description and added that the man was wearing a blue cap with a yellow or gold "C" on it.

The Police Department will not be releasing the names of any of the students involved, due to confidentiality laws.

Chief Couch, of the Police Department, said "this is an evolving situation, and the Police Department is actively investigating. We never want anyone to panic, but we believe that it is best to err on the side of caution any time we have knowledge that something potentially dangerous is going on in our community. To that end, we recommend that parents be especially vigilant as we try to ascertain further details."

Anyone with information about this situation is encouraged to immediately contact McMinn County Dispatch at (423) 745-3687.