From: Media Relations OPS/SPO

Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 3:55 PM

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Subject: Ottawa Police investigate suspicious incidents and ask public to remain vigilant...

MEDIA RELEASE/

COMMUNIQUÉ

Executive Services

Services de direction

474, rue Elgin Street

Ottawa, Ontario

Tel./tél. 613-236-1222

Fax: 613-760-8064

[www.OttawaPolice.ca](http://www.OttawaPolice.ca)

La version française suivra sous peu à ottawapolice.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, November 10, 2011 3:55pm

Ottawa Police investigate suspicious incidents and ask public to remain vigilant

(Ottawa)—The Ottawa Police Service Sexual Assault/Child Abuse (SACA) Section is investigating a number of suspicious incidents involving males in vehicles approaching young persons and offering rides.

On Thursday, October 6, 2011, a male driving a black, four-door luxury sedan vehicle approached a 15 year old girl walking in the area of Manor and Buena Vista and offered her a ride and candy. When she refused, the male drove away. He is described as a male with a dark complexion, balding with crooked teeth.

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, a 13 year old boy was walking in the area of Merivale Road and Family Brown Lane when he was approached by a male who offered him a ride. The male is described as a white, 5’9” (175cm), 20-30 years old, English speaking, medium build, brown hair and full brown beard. He drove a red SUV type vehicle with tinted windows and blue rims.

Three similar incidents have also been reported to Ottawa Police in recent weeks and investigators are currently following up on preliminary information. The incidents have occurred in a various locations across the City with victims ranging in ages from 13 to19 years. All incidents are under investigation, with witnesses and victims still being interviewed.

The Ottawa Police is reminding parents to frequently review tips for children with respect to safety rules. Parents should teach kids what to do when approached by a stranger. Where possible, avoid walking alone.

However, the following tips are offered to children walking alone:

\* Ensure a family member or caregiver knows your route and arrival time;

\* Do not talk to strangers;

\* Do not accept rides from strangers;

\* If an unknown adult is seeking your attention, do not approach them or the vehicle;

\* If being followed, go to a public place, a known residence or shout for help.

For more personal safety tips, visit ottawapolice.ca

Anyone with information about any of these incidents, is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Section at 613-236-1222 ext. 5944 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477(TIPS) or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

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CONTACT:

Sgt. Jeff Webster

Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Section

Tel. 613-236-1222, ext. 5944

Phone Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS) or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

Contactez Échec au crime au 613-233-8477 (TIPS) ou sans frais au 1-800-222-8477.