COUNTY OF OAKLAND OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff Reminds Parents to be Vigilant after Suspicious Encounter in Highland Township with a Man and Two Boys

OAKLAND COUNTY, Mich. – Oct. 7, 2022 – Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard is reminding parents to be vigilant and talk with their children about "stranger danger" after an incident Thursday near a bus stop in Highland Township involving two boys and an unknown man.

"Parents should have an age-appropriate discussion with their children about contact with adults," Bouchard said. "Even adults they may have seen or met with does not mean they should do what those adults ask them to do like going in a house or getting in a car. In this case, the subject was not known to the boys. We would like to know the identity of this individual – if anyone has information – and to be alert in that area."

Two 10-year-old boys were playing after school by the Duck Lake Community Resource Center near Duck Lake Road and Connors Lane at approximately 3:30 p.m. when a man standing outside a black Chevrolet truck offered them candy and popsicles. The man had been eating a popsicle and watching the boys as his truck was parked on the side of the road. Both doors to the truck cab were open.

One of the boys ran away while the other appeared unsure what to do. A woman, who lived in the area, was driving by and witnessed the man talking to the boys. She asked the boys if they were OK. One of the boys replied the man was trying to abduct them.

Upon hearing this, the unidentified male quickly got into his truck and fled. The woman then followed the boys to their homes where the Sheriff's Office was notified of the encounter.

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The man is described as a white male with a long gray beard, between 60-70 years of age, wearing a green reflective safety vest and work boots. The model of the Chevrolet truck is not known.

The Huron Valley Schools was informed of the incident and provided the information to parents. Bouchard and the school officials remind parents of the following safety tips:

- Try to avoid walking to and from the bus stop alone
- If you or your child see anything suspicious, call 911
- Never talk to or take anything from strangers
- Keep enough distance between you and strangers so they are unable to touch you

Anyone who may have seen the black Chevrolet pickup truck near a school or bus stop, or its driver should call the Sheriff's Office at 248-858-4911.