



Peoria Police Department Police Administration

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Peoria Police Determine no Crime in Park Contact

In response to multiple media inquiries stemming from a school district letter to parents, Peoria Police advised they were looking to speak to a person of interest in that incident. The person of interest had contact with a 13 year old female student, who reported the man touched her on the leg.

Upon making further contact today with involved police personnel and the subjects, the investigation has gone further and uncovered the following:

The 13 year old female student missed the school bus Monday morning, and hopped a fence into an HOA park near her school. While sitting on a park bench, the man approached her, wished her a good morning, and announced he was going to exercise. As he left the bench, he patted her on the knee. After this contact, the girl initiated further contact with this same 83 year old man, asking him if he had any money she could have to purchase something at a nearby fast food location. He stated he did not, and she returned to the bench.

After his exercises, he returned to the bench and resumed their conversation. She reported that he again touched her on the leg, and she decided at that point to end the contact. She went to talk to a male high school student who was nearby. He called his father, who instructed the son to call police. The girl had left by this time, and was unaware the police were being called. When police later contacted her, she explained she had no interest in calling the police, and simply explained what happened. Police also located and spoke to the man, who confirmed he had been involved in a contact with a girl who asked him for money Monday morning. The man has lived in the area for fifteen years and is well known in the area, where he frequently walks and exercises.

This investigation has concluded that no crime occurred.