



Birmingham Police Department

Mark H. Clemence, Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Birmingham Stranger Danger Investigated and Determined to be a Misunderstanding

On Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at approximately 5:45 PM, the Birmingham Police Department took a suspicious circumstance report from ten young girls who were near the former Midvale Elementary School, 2121 Midvale St., in Birmingham for a game of capture the flag. Midvale School now houses a day care center and NEXT, the Birmingham area senior living activity center.

The young girls reported that they were standing near a vehicle in the street when they were approached by an elderly white male. The girls reported that the man asked them if they were looking for a ride and, if so, that he did not think he had enough room for all of them in his car. The girls fled the scene and returned to one of their residences on an adjacent street and immediately reported the incident to a parent who contacted police. There was no physical contact between the man and any of the girls.

The case was investigated by detectives who were able to determine that the male in question was a patron of NEXT, who was leaving the senior center. The man saw the girls standing near his vehicle and just tried to be nice to the girls by making a joke with them that, if they all needed a ride, he would not have enough room in his car. After being interviewed by detectives, the man, in his eighties', was distraught that his actions or words were misconstrued and that he caused any of the girls to be frightened.

All parties involved in the incident were in complete agreement that the entire event was a misunderstanding.

While this incident was found to be a misunderstanding, we encourage anyone who has a concern for their safety to immediately contact the police department for assistance. The fact that the girls in this case communicated the incident to a parent was helpful in determining what occurred and being able to identify all the parties involved.