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CHILD REPORTS SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

The Tigard Police Department received a report of a suspicious circumstance involving a child, and we'd like to take the opportunity to remind parents to talk to their kids about safety.

On Tuesday evening, January 3rd, a 9-year-old girl told her mother she was approached by a stranger at a bus stop that morning. She said she was waiting alone near Schmidt Loop & Ashford Street around 7:15 AM, when a white vehicle pulled up (unknown make/model). She said the driver asked her to get in the car and she said no, but the driver became more insistent and told her to get in the car a second time, so she ran across the street. About that time, another child arrived at the bus stop and the driver left the area. The girl described the driver as an older white man with facial stubble or a goatee who she'd never seen before.

The officer who took the report Tuesday evening told the girl she was very brave and did the right thing by running away. Today, a School Resource Officer spoke with the mother of the second child at the bus stop, but she did not see anything. Officers have also been working to find any relevant surveillance camera angles in the neighborhood but have been unsuccessful so far. If you believe you have information or video that can help, please email tips@tigard-or.gov.

With school returning to session after the holiday break, it's a good reminder for families to talk to their children about safety. Kids should practice being aware of their surroundings, make a plan for what to do if they feel unsafe in a given situation, be encouraged to report anything that doesn't seem right and know how to call for help. If your child has a cell phone, make sure they know when it's appropriate to call 911, and add the Washington County non-emergency number (503-629-0111) into their contacts.

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