

Police Advisory

Assault and street harassment

November 13, 2015

Facts:

On Friday November 13 at approximately 7:30 pm, a woman was walking in the area of the 2400 block of Pleasant Av S when two men approached her and harassed her for her attention and information while walking beside her for a block. She attempted to ignore them, when one of them pushed her and caused her to stumble. The other suspect then grabbed her outside her clothing in a private area. The suspects then walked away.

The woman was not otherwise injured in this incident. We do not have further information at this time.

We are not including suspect descriptions in part because they are not detailed enough to identify a person from a crowd and could cause innocent people to be considered, and primarily because street harassment is done by many people so the behavior itself should be watched for and addressed.

We have heard concerns of street harassment from women in this and surrounding neighborhoods. This is the first known report of this specific behavior in the neighborhood, with the woman additionally being grabbed by the suspect. Please view the below "What you can do" section for important information.

What you can do:

- **ALL primary and secondary survivors of any sort of sexual violence (which includes street harassment) can get FREE help and counseling through the Sexual Violence Center. Their 24-hour crisis line is 612.871.5111, and their website is www.sexualviolencecenter.org.** A 'secondary survivor' is anyone who was not the direct victim of sexual violence but who feels affected by it. As an example, this can include neighbors on a block where street harassment has occurred, or family or friends of a primary survivor (direct victim) of any sexual violence. Please visit their website for more information.
- **For information on sexual assault and rapes, please view our handouts/brochures on three important topics:** Myths and Misconceptions about Rape/Sexual Assault, Rape/Sexual Assault: What to do if it happens to you, and Risk Reduction for Rape. You can find all of these at go.usa.gov/c2cb4
- **Call 911 on suspicious activity at the time you see it.** This includes helping others by calling 911 if you witness a crime or someone being harassed on the street.
 - When calling 911, describe the suspect to the best of your ability so officers know who to look for upon arrival. If the situation changes (such as an escalation or suspects leave), call 911 back.
 - If a vehicle is involved, if at all possible provide the license plate. If that is not possible, try to describe the vehicle, including anything that makes the vehicle stand out.
 - If the suspicious persons/vehicle leave, call 911 back and let them know.
 - More 911 information: https://youtu.be/fCPMyqpV_DM, and: go.usa.gov/c2UdT
- If you have information on this case, use the free MPD Tip 411 app or text MPD + your tip to 847411 (Tip 411)
- Alert others to suspicious incidents if appropriate and if this can be done safely for all involved.
- Trust your instincts: if something feels off, there is a reason for it.
- Become a block leader! Receive detailed alerts of most crimes in your area and forward to your neighbors. Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist for more information.

For more crime prevention information, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams; Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov (best) or (612) 673-2819.

