



Media Contact

Whitney Morris - Reed • *Public Relations Manager*

City of Hinesville

wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org

912.408.3569 (office) • 912.271.6421 (mobile)

NEWS RELEASE

HPD Investigates Child Abduction Report

HINESVILLE, Ga. (Nov. 21, 2019) – On the evening of Wednesday, November 20 and into the morning of Thursday, November 21, officers from the Hinesville Police Department investigated claims of suspicious activity and a child abduction in Hinesville.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., Star Cpl. Williams of the HPD responded to a call of suspicious activity and potential child abduction in Westridge Mobile Home Park. Additional officers from HPD arrived on scene and proceeded to canvas the area, including interviewing residents, to look for a vehicle described in a Facebook post as an older light blue cargo van with a lock on the rear door. Neighbors informed officers that all children in the area were present and accounted for.

HPD further investigated the origin of the report, which seemed to have stemmed from a post made on Facebook describing the vehicle, stating that a child had gone missing in its vicinity and asked locals to keep an eye out for it. Investigators discovered that this post had originated in the state of Louisiana, posted in at least three separate profiles in as many areas and shared thousands of times.

Investigators also determined that an Amber Alert has not been issued in the surrounding areas or states in response to the conditions set by the Facebook post in question.

Over the course of the evening, as HPD expanded their search area for suspicious activity, officers did not find evidence of the abduction of a child or children in Hinesville.

At this time, HPD is currently investigating all aspects of this case before making the determination on the culpability of those involved in the reports.

The Hinesville Police Department would also like to remind the community that although this situation was resolved favorably, residents should be vigilant in monitoring their children and teens. Additionally, if you see suspicious activity, please report it to the Hinesville Police Department as quickly as possible. The number to file a report with HPD is 912.368.8211.

If you have any information related to this incident, please contact the Hinesville Police Department at 912.368.8211 or contact Whitney Morris-Reed, Public Relations Manager, at wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org.



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ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:

The [City of Hinesville](http://cityofhinesville.org) was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people. For more information, visit cityofhinesville.org.

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