



Independence Police Department
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MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: Falsely reported attempted abduction at Kroger

It has been brought to our attention that there is a rumor going around about an incident that allegedly occurred at the Kroger Independence sometime over the past few days. According to sources within the community the incident occurred over the weekend and involved a mother and her small child. The sources stated the unidentified mother was shopping in Kroger with her child seated in the shopping cart when she was approached by an unknown male. The male allegedly began yelling at the female and tried to take the shopping cart with her child inside from her. According to sources two Law enforcement officers intervened and arrested the suspect. We've been advised of this incident via several sources and each time the story is slightly different, sometimes when the story is told it states the officers were in plain clothes and that they arrested the suspect for human trafficking, in other iterations the person stated the Independence Police showed up and arrested the suspect. Also, sometimes the suspect is a foreign male and sometimes he is not.

We want to make it clear that the Independence Police have had NO calls at Kroger that match any of the above incidents over the past month. We have made no arrests inside Kroger and have not had any reports of any attempted kidnappings or assaults inside of the Kroger in Independence. We further spoke with several neighboring agencies whom share jurisdiction and no one else has dealt with any of the above incidents as well. More than likely the incident is either a misrepresentation of a past event that has evolved into something more than it was or a complete fabrication meant solely to induce panic.

If anyone does have any additional information, please contact detectives with the Independence Police so we can investigate further.

Sincerely,

Chief Brian Ferayorni