

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Child Safety Forum

Recently, a series of suspicious incidents at or near school bus stops have caused concern within our community. The Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department urge the community to remain alert and to notify the appropriate agency when suspicious circumstances arise. Emails and text messages are an excellent tool to communicate information throughout the community. As a reminder, any information related to a law enforcement function should be verified by the agency BEFORE being forwarded. Recent unverified emails referencing suspicious incidents may have caused apprehension and fear among parents and students. Remember, the only verifiable source of information about a criminal or suspicious event is the law enforcement agency investigating the information.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department work closely with the Leon County School Board in an effort to keep our children safe. The reporting of these recent suspicious activities by the Tallahassee Police Department and Leon County Sheriff's Office is intended to provide citizens with factual information about incidents reported to law enforcement. These reported incidents are a cause of concern for law enforcement and raise questions about the motives of the subjects involved. These incidents provide an opportunity for parents, educators and law enforcement to talk to children about safety and the warning signs associated with dangerous situations.

On Tuesday, December 15, 2009, the Committee of 99, a local citizen's association which has supported local law enforcement for over 25 years, Leon County Schools, the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department will host a Child Safety Forum in the North Florida Baptist Church Auditorium, 3000 North Meridian Road, at 6:30PM. This Child Safety Forum will provide parents, teachers and members of the community with safety information and facts surrounding the recent suspicious events.

Attached is a guide with tips for safeguarding our children. This Child Safety guide provides parents with informative tips and examples of techniques to use when discussing issues such as strangers with our children.

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