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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GPD Investigators Determine One of Four Recent Attacks Unfounded

GAINESVILLE, FLA – On Thursday, GPD investigators announced that one of the four recent reported attacks on a female student on UF campus has been declared unfounded.

Last Friday morning, September 5th, a female UF student reported to the University of Florida Police Department that she was attacked by a suspect on UF campus near Library West, reportedly by the same suspect that had recently victimized other women.

As part of the extensive on-going investigation, and out of an abundance of caution, routine re-interviews have been conducted with each victim and witness. These are conducted to ensure that detectives have the most accurate suspect information. During the most recent interview, it became clear that the details originally reported by this woman were different from what actually occurred. Based on this new information, GPD investigators do not believe that this incident is related at all to the other reported attacks.

It should be noted that Gainesville Police investigators do not believe this female consciously fabricated a story with any sort of malicious or criminal intent to mislead police. She readily admits that was intoxicated at the time of her original report, and has been extremely honest with investigators during subsequent interviews, therefore criminal charges will not apply. We commend this woman for being truthful with investigators and ensuring we have the most accurate account of recent events.

GPD Spokesman, Officer Ben Tobias stressed that this new information will not change the current police response. “We believe there is still a suspect out there that has committed very personal and invasive crimes in our city” Tobias said. “We are confident that the three other victims were attacked as they reported, and we will not stop until we have expended every effort to identify the suspect and bring him to justice.”

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