GAINESVILLE, FLA – Early Sunday morning, GPD received a call from a male who lives in Jacksonville to report that his female friend was allegedly followed by a white male matching the description of the suspect in the recent attacks.

When GPD arrived, they found the female to be very intoxicated. She stated that after an off-campus party she cut across campus then reportedly noticed a 6’ white male following her. She tried to walk faster, but noticed the male also picked up his pace. Once she made it across campus and home, she locked herself inside and called her friend, who contacted police. She told officers that the male never caught up with her or touched her in any way.

The female’s version of events, locations, and the actual description of the suspect changed several times while police talked to her, so investigators are trying to determine what actually happened. At this point in the investigation, we have no credible information to indicate a crime occurred.

The incident was reported to police at 12:15am, but the female reported this incident occurred at close to 11:30pm. Due to recent events and our of an abundance of caution, a UF Alert was activated and GPD and UFPD immediately flooded the area with officers, but found no person matching the description. Police reminds the public that we must be diligent in our response as information is relayed to us.

If you have any information, police urge you to contact GPD Detectives at 352-393-7658. You can also make an anonymous tip with CrimeStoppers at 352-372-STOP. You may also text an anonymous tip by texting keyword “GPDFL” plus your tip to 274637 (CRIMES).

Be sure to walk in groups, be prepared to call for help, and always know your surroundings. Avoid dimly-lit alleyways and paths and use the emergency phones located on UF campus. The increased police presence in and around the University of Florida will continue.

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