



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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VPD Investigating Reports of Sexual Battery in North Visalia

Since mid-July, VPD detectives have been investigating reports of sexual battery involving a man groping women.

In two of the reports, a woman was on a walk with her dog and was asked by a man if he could pet the dog. Once he did, he forcefully groped the victim and ran away. One incident took place in the area of Grove Avenue and Stevenson Street and the other took place near the Visalia Library on Oak Avenue.

The most recent sexual battery report took place in the area of Northwest Third Avenue and Strawberry Street. In this incident, a woman was walking alone when a man came up behind her and groped her.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male adult in his early 20's, 5'3 to 5'6, short brown hair, clean shaven and wears a black shirt and black pants.

VPD has added extra patrol checks in the area since the first report.

Please remember to always be aware of your surroundings, stay in a well-lit area, carry a cell phone, and call 911 immediately if you feel threatened or observe any suspicious activity.

This is an active investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Visalia Police Department at 559-734-8116. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact the Anonymous Tip Line at (559) 713-4738.

