



*****For Immediate Release*****

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Possible Heritage Park Abduction Confirmed as Prank

Olympia – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has determined that last night’s possible abduction at Heritage Park in Olympia was a prank.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. last night, August 22, 2018, troopers responded to a possible abduction at Heritage Park near Power House Road. Witnesses said they observed five to six males dressed in white plastic jumpsuits grab and restrain three victims, one of which was believed to be a young girl.

Someone involved in the hoax contacted the WSP and told detectives that their family was involved in this incident.

Based on the tip, detectives were able to locate the vehicle used and positively ID all the suspects and alleged victims. Everyone, including multiple minors, were found safe. After lengthy interviews, detectives were able to determine that six members of one family and two additional family friends carried out this hoax.

According to the testimonies, the family had been planning the elaborate hoax for three weeks. Their idea was to play a “prank” on the youngest kids, aged 11 and 15-years-old, by turning a scavenger hunt into an “escape room-style kidnapping.”

One 17-year-old led the two younger kids to Heritage Park where six adults, aged 20 through 28-years-old, were hiding in the nearby bushes. When the children arrived, the adults jumped out and began to restrain the youngest children before placing them in the back of the family’s red Ford truck. A witness nearby immediately called 911. A trooper quickly showed up, but by the time the WSP arrived, the group had left. The family believed the prank would be a fun opportunity for the family and didn’t realize the serious implications it would bring.

The Washington State Patrol will take every case of possible abduction seriously. Thank you to everyone who helped spread the word and bring this investigation to a conclusion.

The WSP is sending their investigative findings to the Thurston County Prosecutor’s Office for charging considerations.

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