



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

MEMORANDUM

October 1, 2012

TO: American University Community

FROM: Daniel Nichols, Executive Director of University Safety Programs
Phil Morse, Senior Director, Public Safety and Emergency Management

RE: Recent Forcible Fondling Incidents Near Main Campus

Today, the Department of Public Safety received reports of four forcible fondling incidents that have occurred near campus along Massachusetts Avenue since Monday, September 24. In each case, the victims were walking along Massachusetts Avenue in the late evening and early morning hours between the Berkshire Apartments and American University's main campus. The suspect approached the victims from behind and grabbed each victim's backside. In one incident, the suspect also grabbed the victim's chest. The suspect immediately fled the scene on foot after committing these acts.

The suspect has been described as a Caucasian male between 20-and 30-years-old, and between 5'7" and 5'10" tall. He has been seen wearing a navy blue sweatshirt, dark blue hoodie and blue jeans.

The Department of Public Safety is communicating with the Metropolitan Police Department regarding these incidents. The investigation is ongoing.

The Department of Public Safety reminds all members of the AU community to be vigilant of your surroundings, and do not hesitate to report any suspicious individual or activity to the **Department of Public Safety** at **202-885-3636**.

Please remember and follow these safety tips:

- Walk in groups whenever possible, and look out for each other.
- Avoid isolated and dark areas.
- Carry your cell phone and keep it accessible. Program AU Public Safety into your cell phone for emergencies: **202-885-3636**.
- If you are approached, take note of the person's appearance, clothing and anything unusual that will help identify the suspect.
- Do not let anyone follow you into the building, or admit anyone as a guest unless they are your guest.
- Be aware of the emergency telephones (yellow boxes on pillars, blue light phone towers, and red telephones) located on campus, in building lobbies, elevators, and in parking lots.

- The Department of Public Safety provides escorts, twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week, for community members to and from university owned property. To arrange for an escort, call **202-885-2527** or use a blue light or red emergency phone
- For additional tips to help stay safe from crime in your daily life, please visit the [Metropolitan Police Department's Safety Tips](#).

Additionally, please become familiar with these on campus resources:

For information on support for survivors of sexual assault, please visit the Office of Campus Life's [Sexual Assault Resources webpage](#).

Confidential Tips can be made through the [Department of Public Safety webpage](#).

For information on the safety programs AU's Department of Public Safety offers, please read the department's [Annual Security Report](#).