



# CRIME ALERT

Near Campus- 4300 Block of Massachusetts Ave, NW DC

Release Date: 02/08/2016

**Incident:** On February 8, it was reported to the Department of Public Safety that on February 7 at approximately 3:00 am a **Forcible Fondling** incident occurred near campus. The victim in this case is an AU student. There were no injuries reported on the scene.

**The following was reported to DPS:** The victim was walking southbound from Ward Circle along Massachusetts Ave in front of the Department of Homeland Security complex on Massachusetts Avenue. She reported that an individual approached her and asked for directions to Bethesda. After giving directions, the individual asked the victim if she needed a ride; and he then proceeded to grab her buttocks. The victim reported the incident to the Department of Homeland Security who was unable to locate the suspect.

**Suspect Description:** The suspect is described as a medium build, light-brown skinned, possibly Hispanic male. The suspect appeared to be in his 30s, standing approximately 5'8. He was last seen wearing a waist level brown coat.

*If you have information relating to this incident, or witness suspicious activity, please call the Department of Public Safety at 202-885-3636 or 911 for the Metropolitan Police Department.*

**Make a Confidential Tip through the Department of Public Safety Webpage at:**

<http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/tips.cfm>

#### Resources:

- The sexual assault prevention coordinator (SAPC) serves to develop and implement prevention and education programs for the AU community about sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The SAPC is also available to provide resources and referrals for survivors of sexual assault and can assist survivors in contacting counselors or a victim advocate when requested.

The SAPC can be reached at **202-885-3055** and is a confidential resource.

- For information about resources available to victims/survivors of sexual assault, please visit the Wellness Center website at: <http://www.american.edu/ocl/wellness/sexual-assault-resources.cfm>

#### 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.
- If you are approached, take note of the person's appearance, clothing and anything unusual that will help identify the suspect.
- 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.
- Do not let anyone follow you into the building, or admit anyone as a guest unless they are your guest.
- Program AU Public Safety into your cell phone for emergencies: **202-885-3636**.
- AU 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.

#### Risk Reduction Information

- Be aware of the frequency of sexual violence by someone you know; 9 out of 10 sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance.
- Perpetrators often use alcohol or other drugs as a tool to commit sexual violence. Be aware of individuals who are pushing drinks on you or pressuring you to get very intoxicated.
- Be aware of red flag behavior: intimidating stares, degrading jokes or language, boundary violations, strong belief in sex/gender role stereotypes, and a history of violent behavior.
- Inform your friends. Make sure you let a friend or family member know where you are going and who you're with.

*If you would like a copy of this alert, please visit: <http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/crimealerts.cfm>*

**Emergency: 202-885-3636**