

Portsmouth Police Department

Press Release

Date of Release: April 8, 2011

Reference: Gun call in front of Portsmouth Middle School

On April 8, 2011, shortly before 2:00 p.m., the Portsmouth Police received numerous emergency phone calls from residents, middle school bus drivers, and others in the area of the Portsmouth Middle School on Parrott Ave. Callers reported a male subject wearing a hand gun in a drop down holster with extra ammunition, carrying a shotgun with visible extra ammunition and carrying a backpack. The male subject was spotted directly in front of the Middle School while children were being let out. The Portsmouth Middle School went into lock down status and students were sheltered in the building.

Portsmouth Police responded to the area and assisted in securing the school and conducted a search heading into the City's downtown area. Additional reports were received that the subject was seen on Fleet Street. Officers were eventually able to determine that the subject was possibly located inside of a Fleet Street apartment.

The subject was located and cooperated with the police investigation. The subject claimed that due to a lack of available parking, he parked at the Portsmouth library to walk to Fleet Street, his residence. He was carrying a shotgun with extra ammunition strapped to the side of the weapon and a 9mm handgun in a drop down holster. According to the subject, upon walking in front of the Middle School, and seeing the reaction to his presence from students and passerby, he realized he had made a "bad choice."

A report was generated and will be reviewed, but at this time no charges have been filed and no arrests have been made in this case. The open carry of a firearm is not a crime in the State of New Hampshire. The nature and circumstances surrounding today's events warranted a strong law enforcement response to prevent a potential volatile situation.

By: Det. Capt. Corey MacDonald

CHIEF OF POLICE

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