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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Young Troy Student Approached by Stranger at Bus Stop**

The Troy Police Department responded to a report that a stranger approached an 11-year-old boy at a local bus stop this morning. At approximately 7:30 a.m. the student was waiting at the stop located on Kirkton and Maple Road. He reported that a white male driving a small, white vehicle approached, stopped, and opened the passenger side door. The driver advised the student that school was cancelled today and that he could give him a ride home. When the youth declined the offer, the driver told him the ride would be free and he wouldn't tell anyone if he got in. When the youth began to walk away and toward a near-by residence, the car drove off and was last seen northbound on Kirkton. When the bus arrived, the young man told the driver what had occurred. The driver radioed the incident to her dispatcher who forwarded that information to the Troy School District. District officials immediately reported that information to the Police Department. The area was checked, however the vehicle was not located. A student who entered the school bus at the next stop on the route reported to police officers that he saw a vehicle matching the description provided driving east on Cherry Street from Kirkton. Morse Elementary School is in the area of this morning's incident, however the bus route serves other schools in the district, as well.

The vehicle is described as a small, older, white two door with minor damage above the license plate on the rear bumper; rust over the wheel wells; and tinted rear windows.

The driver is described as a white male in his 40's; wearing a dirty T-shirt and red and black baseball cap on backwards; long hair and thin mustache.

The Troy School District E-mailed a district wide message informing parents of this morning's incident and is sending the attached letter home with students. Also attached with that letter is a list of suggestions published by the Troy Police Department to assist parents when speaking to their children on the topic of, "Safety with Strangers."

The Police Department and School District are asking parents and students to be cognizant of suspicious persons and vehicles in and around their neighborhoods, playgrounds, or schools. Should anyone observe a person and vehicle similar to that of today's incident, be approached, or observe anything suspicious, they should call the Police Department immediately. An in-progress incident should be reported using 911. Otherwise, citizens can call the Dispatch Center on the non-emergency line at 248-524-3477. Police Officers will be conducting extra patrols in and around these areas.

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