



Abilene Police Department

News Release

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Wal-Mart Parking Lot Incident

ABILENE, TX – The Abilene Police Department received a few media inquiries and there has been a lot of social media traffic about an incident which happened on January 30, 2016 at a north Abilene business where a woman with a child was approached by three subjects in the parking lot after unloading her groceries into her vehicle. The woman, fearing for the safety of herself and her child, correctly told the three individuals to not approach her and took down critical information and called police.

The three individuals left the area in the vehicle they were driving. Through the information given to Police, we were able to make contact with the individual who owned the vehicle in question. They are part of a religious organization which makes it part of their practice to approach individuals out in public areas to spread their religious beliefs. This is what the three individuals were doing when they approached the woman and her child on Saturday.

The Abilene Police Department commends the actions of the mother who was aware of her surroundings, remembered critical information and wrote down the make/model/color of the vehicle along with a license plate number. She took all the appropriate steps to ensure her and her child's safety.

These religious organizations are defined as Canvassers under City Ordinance and must get permission from the property owner to operate on their property. They are not required to have a permit.

Respectfully,

Rick Tomlin
Public Information Coordinator

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Abilene Police
Department

"You are the
first line of
defense
against crime"

Stan Standridge, Chief of Police | 450 Pecan | Abilene, TX | 79602

"We work together to build a community of the highest quality for present and future generations"