



FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Detective Ali Adamson | Office of the Chief | 954-828-6433 | aadamson@fortlauderdale.gov

May 18, 2022

FLPD ARRESTS ARMED SEXUAL BATTERY SUSPECT

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating an armed sexual battery that occurred on Tuesday, May 17th, at approximately 7:00 a.m. The incident occurred at 1048 Northeast 3rd Avenue in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the victim, a 14-year-old female, was walking to the incident location with her friend. The victim and her friend were followed by an unknown male suspect into the backyard area of the location. While in the backyard, the victim and her friend were startled at the sight of the suspect and advised him he could not be there and that he needed to leave. The suspect agreed to leave.

Believing that the suspect was in the process of leaving, the victim's friend walked away to try and find a way to safely get back inside the residence. The suspect, taking advantage of having the victim alone, displayed a knife and threatened the victim before sexually assaulting her. After the assault, the suspect fled the scene. The victim sustained minor injuries as a result of the struggle. The identities of the victim and the witness will not be released because they are both minors.

The suspect was located a short distance away by a Broward Sheriff's Office deputy who was nearby. The suspect attempted to flee from police, however, was later successfully apprehended without further incident. At the time of arrest, the suspect was still in possession of the knife used during the crime. During his interview with the Special Victims Unit, the suspect confessed to engaging in sex acts with the victim.

The suspect has been identified as John Gardner, B/M, DOB 02/02/1989, a resident of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Gardner has been charged with armed sexual battery, lewd and lascivious molestation, resisting without violence, violation of probation, and an outstanding warrant.

Detectives encourage anyone who may have information about this incident or anyone who may have witnessed this incident to contact Detective Tiana DeQuarto at 954-828-6559. To provide information anonymously, contact Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS (8477).

###