



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

40 Bailey Boulevard
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Lieutenant Robert Pistone

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Press Release

08/20/14

At approximately 1945 hrs. on 08/19/14 Haverhill Police received a report of a young boy stranded in a boat in the Merrimack River in the area of 232 River St. The 13 year old boy reported to police that a 17 year old acquaintance had stolen the boat and picked the boy up behind the Moody School area of the river. The 13 year old stated to police that the two drove the boat west towards the Route 495 Bridge and the 17 year old fell into the river after horsing around and never resurfaced.

Based on the boy's story MSP troopers, MSP Air wing, MSP Dive team, Haverhill Fire, Haverhill Harbormaster, Haverhill Police and Methuen Police deployed multiple resources and searched the Merrimack River until approximately 2300 hrs. when it was determined that the search would resume on 08/20/14 with a dive team from the MSP.

Haverhill Detectives and a MSP Trooper assigned to the Essex County District Attorney's Office interviewed the 13 year old boy late last night. Through the investigation and interview it was determined that the 13 year old stole a boat on River St along with another juvenile boy, and they only made their way up river a couple hundred yards when the power boat lost power and they became stranded. One of the boys safely swam to shore while the reporting 13 year old stayed on the boat until rescue personnel arrived.

At this time police are confident that all parties are accounted for and no one is missing in the Merrimack River. The investigation is ongoing and charges are probable.

Sincerely,

Detective Lieutenant Robert Pistone