

From: dukemednews_alldukemedicine-request@duke.edu <dukemednews_alldukemedicine-request@duke.edu> on behalf of Kevin Sowers, MSN, RN, FAAN, President, Duke University Hospital <dukemedicineneeds@dm.duke.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:48:42 AM
To: All Duke Medicine
Subject: Update On Security Issue

To: Duke Medicine faculty & staff

From: Kevin Sowers, MSN, RN, FAAN, President, Duke University Hospital

Subject: Update on security issue

I'm writing to you in hopes of providing some much needed clarity in regard to the disturbing and understandably frightening event that occurred Sunday morning in Duke University Hospital. For those of you who may not be aware, an employee was approached by an intruder in a 9th floor public bathroom who put his arm around the employee's neck and then shoved the employee to the ground.

This update has to begin with an acknowledgement that the communication to faculty and staff in regard to this incident should have been handled differently. Among other things, this has led to the proliferation of inconsistent information being shared throughout the organization, a sense of vulnerability and fear that has been expressed to me and many other administrators by faculty and staff, and general questioning of the safety of the work environment at DUH. For all these reasons, and more, I am sorry that the method of communication has contributed to the confusion and unease surrounding this unnerving event.

As we move forward, it's important that we re-set a common understanding of what we know to be facts at this point in regard to the incident.

- The event occurred at about 5:30 am Sunday in a visitor's bathroom on the 9th floor of Duke North.
- An intruder approached an employee and put his arm around the employee's neck and then shoved the employee to the ground. Duke Police and Durham Police are, therefore, investigating this as an assault by strangulation.
- Contrary to early news reports, this is not being investigated as a sexual assault case by Duke Police or Durham Police.
- Duke Police responded quickly to the event and secured DUH.
- While well-intentioned efforts were made to communicate in person with on-site employees in DUH after the event, it is now clear that those efforts only reached a certain segment of our workforce and added to the confusion.
- The police investigation continues as does the search for the perpetrator. The person of interest at this point was described as a male having a dark complexion, 5 ft. 5 in. tall, and wearing black pants with red cargo pockets