



Central Offices
1441 West 25th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-3101

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Laura Boustani

(216) 375-2616 / boustani@cmha.net

or

Sandra Terry

(216) 780-3670 / sterry@cmhapd.org

CMHA POLICE CLOSES INVESTIGATION

Cleveland, February 5, 2010 – The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police Department (CMHAPD) announced today that they have identified the individual alleged to have approached a child on Monday afternoon near East 46th Street and Quincy Avenue. The individual, a 19-year-old male, has special needs and no prior criminal record. He was positively identified by the children (six-year-old girl and 12-year-old boy) involved in the incident.

“We are very comfortable that this young man is not a danger to our community,” said Andrés González, CMHA’s police chief. “He is an individual with special needs that stem from physical and mental disabilities. He is not violent and does not intend to harm anyone.”

The investigation showed that the individual approached a six-year-old girl and touched her sleeve. He did not attempt to harm, abduct or coerce her. The children ran from the individual and told the school crossing guard what occurred. The crossing guard then contacted police.

“We are pleased that the children and the school crossing guard did the right thing,” added Chief Gonzalez. “Anytime a child is approached by a stranger –no matter how friendly - that child should run toward people and tell a trusted adult what happened. The adult should immediately notify police.”

CMHA is working with mental health professionals to ensure that the male is accessing the appropriate services.

--more--

CMHA POLICE CLOSES INVESTIGATION—Page 2

Founded in 1933, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority is the oldest public housing authority in the country. The police department has obtained national recognition through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). It serves Cuyahoga County excluding Chagrin Falls Township primarily through two federally assisted housing programs: Low-Income Public Housing, which serves about 16,000 residents, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides rental assistance for 14,000 households.

###