

The Times-Picayune



THE NEW ORLEANS
ADVOCATE

Lusher student was not raped, NOPD concludes

Naomi Martin, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

NOV 5, 2014 - 11:08 PM

Lusher Charter School

A 16-year-old Lusher Charter School student's report last Friday that she was raped by a stranger on campus two weeks earlier was not true, school officials and police said Wednesday.

(NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archive)

A 16-year-old Lusher Charter School student's report that she was raped by a stranger on campus was not true, school officials and police said Wednesday.

The girl withdrew her complaint in a forensic interview with "outside experts," or specialists who are not police officers, said Tyler Gamble, spokesman for the New Orleans Police Department.

"Based on the forensic interview, and initial NOPD investigation, detectives have determined that a sexual assault did not occur," Gamble said. "The student is not facing false report charges at this time."

Police began investigating last week after the girl went to the Children's Hospital emergency room and said she had been raped on the Freret Street campus around 3:45 p.m. two weeks prior, on Oct. 17. NOPD classified the report as an aggravated rape.

A public relations firm representing the school first announced the investigation's findings.

"No criminal incident occurred on Lusher's campus," Kathy Riedlinger, Lusher CEO, said through a spokesperson. "The safety and security of our campus was never compromised."

The school holds its students' safety as its "number one priority," and will continue to review safety policies and protocols, the statement said.

"Our thoughts remain with this family as they deal with this serious issue," she added.

Gamble said the department is not pursuing false report charges.

He said NOPD would not offer any other information as the investigation is ongoing.

https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/article_3887c6aa-b5bc-5977-874a-0fe3493080ed.html