

# Duncan Park neighborhood relieved

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NEWS

## Residents react after learning woman filed false report in sexual assault case

Chris Lavender

[chris.lavender@shj.com](mailto:chris.lavender@shj.com)

Neighbors living near Duncan Park expressed relief a day after it was revealed that a Spartanburg woman filed a false police report about being sexually assaulted in Duncan Park in September.

For weeks, the surrounding neighborhood remained on edge believing suspects wanted in the reported assault were on the loose. Police had released sketches of three individuals that Tyiesha Juliet Mullins, 20, of South Irwin Avenue had said carried out the attack.

Mullins was charged on Friday with filing a false police report of a felony after investigators determined there was no evidence that a sexual assault occurred on Sept. 19. Maj. Art Littlejohn of the Spartanburg Police Department said Mullins admitted on Friday that she lied.

She initially reported to officers that she was walking on West Park Drive near South Converse Street when three men started to follow her. She said the men then pulled her into a wooded area and sexually assaulted her in broad daylight.

A \$3,000 reward was offered by the Spartanburg Police Department in early October for information leading to the arrest and conviction in the case.

Denise Williams, who was visiting Duncan Park Saturday afternoon with her three grandchildren, said she was shocked by Mullins' admission. Duncan Park is one of her favorite places to visit in the city.

Williams said she had followed the case from the beginning.

"She made it sound like it was so real," Williams said. "People around here didn't want to go out and walk around and do anything. They can feel better now knowing that it turned out not to be like that."

Williams said she plans to keep visiting the park since it's close to her home.

"Instead of driving to Cleveland Park, I come out here and get out a little bit," she said.

Williams said it was upsetting that a false report had been filed, which required a lot of attention from investigators.

Mary Fuller of West Park Drive has lived in the neighborhood for the past 22 years. She wasn't home when the incident was reported to police but said she was skeptical from the start.

"I just never thought it happened like the way she said," Fuller said. "I just never thought it happened like that."

Fuller said some people she knew had doubted Mullins' report from the start. She said others believed it could be true. Fuller said it was time to move on but the incident had left her with a bad impression.

"It made our neighborhood look bad," Fuller said. "I had people telling me 'You need to be careful.' I am careful anyway all the time."