

Elizabethton Police Department

136 South Sycamore Street

Elizabethton, TN 37643

(423) 542-4141 or (423) 547-6419

Incident Report

Incident Number: 2011000011784

File No: GC2008000186636

Dispatch Incident Number: N/A

Print Date: August 30, 2011

Printed By: CELLISON

Narrative by: Investigator Willard Johnson Division: Patrol

Date & Time 08/25/2011 16:10

On 8/25/11 I was monitoring traffic on Cedar Avenue when I observed a young female riding her bicycle southbound on Cedar Avenue. I observed that vehicles had to slow and negotiate around the bicyclist. I stopped and spoke with her at the intersection of Bradley Street and Cedar Avenue at which time I identified her as Cynthia Tryon, 10 years of age of [REDACTED]. She said that she rode her bicycle back and forth to school every day. When asked why she did not ride the bus that stops in her neighborhood, she replied she had been kicked off the bus before and did not like it. She said that she has a brother and sister that ride the bus on a daily basis. In my opinion this section of roadway is not a safe place for a child of her age to be riding unsupervised. I escorted the child to her residence at which time I spoke with her mother Teresa Tryon. I informed Mrs. Tryon that I believed that the child should not be riding her bicycle to and from school unsupervised at her age. Ms. Tryon became defensive and stated that Cynthia had been through a bicycle riding course and that she was perfectly OK with her riding her bike to school. When I told her I believed it was a safety issue for Cynthia, she said that she was OK with it and she believed Cynthia to be safe. I informed her that I would have a report and it would be forwarded to DCS. Once again she seemed unconcerned and stated that DCS had been there last year on the same complaint. She said that DCS told her that it was OK for Cynthia to ride her bike to school. The distance from Harold McCormick School to [REDACTED] is one mile. The sidewalk ends in the area of Linden Avenue approximately .3 miles from the school. At that point the child would have to ride in the roadway until reaching South Hills Drive. Cedar Avenue at this time of day is heavily traveled with vehicles and school buses and in my opinion is unsafe for a child of her age to be riding unsupervised.

Narrative by: Investigator Willard Johnson Division: Patrol

Date & Time 08/25/2011 16:21

I called CPS and spoke with Pamela Winters and advised her of the situation. She said to fax a copy of the report to her and they would follow up on the report. I informed her of the details at which time she asked if there was bus service to her residence. I advised her that there was and she stated the situation would be taken care of.

Narrative by: Sergeant Joy Markland Division: Patrol

Date & Time 08/26/2011 16:48

On 08-25-11 I was stationary, just off of Cedar Avenue, to monitor traffic in the school zone for Harold McCormick Elementary. A subject operating a white vehicle, pulled alongside my patrol car and asked to speak with me. He inquired about my opinion with regards to a 10 year old child riding a bicycle to school. I stated that it depended on various factors, including the age of the child, distance, area traveled, etc. He advised me that his daughter traveled approximately 1 mile from South Hills to school and that she is a mature child who is an "avid cyclist."

I was familiar with the report from yesterday and informed him of that. I explained to him my concerns regarding the area in which the child was driving, especially with consideration to the lack of sidewalks in the area, age of the child, and excessive traffic in the area. He advised me that he understood my involvement and concerns, however, stated that he didn't agree. He questioned as to why law enforcement had become involved. I explained that Officer Johnson had received a complaint from residents nearby with the same concern. After making similar observations, he became involved at which time contact was made with Mrs. Tryon. He was informed that the report would be forwarded to DCS and that we would speak with them regarding their recommendations.

ATTENTION: Physicians / Medical Personnel - DO NOT refill this prescription based solely on this report, the investigation is on-going. If you have questions or concerns pertaining to this investigation and/or incident, please do not hesitate to contact Captain Mike Merritt of the Criminal Investigations Division at (423) 547-6409.