Town of Fishkill Police Department

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Fishkill, New York 12524
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Office of the Chief of Police

Statement regarding suspicious incidents on Route 9D, August 2026.

The Town of Fishkill Police Department recently received a report of a suspicious incident in which a man entered a business on Route 9D, approached a young female employee, and asked her to duct tape him to a chair. When she declined, the man left without further incident.

Police took a report and immediately began an investigation. Officers learned of several similar incidents that had occurred nearby and close in time. In each reported incident, the individual left when asked and without any incident. No witness reported any other conduct, and none of the evidence reviewed by investigators revealed any criminal activity.

Over the following several days, uniformed and plainclothes officers conducted surveillance in the area in an effort to locate and identify the individual. Officers did not encounter him, and witnesses reported no additional sightings.

While the reported behavior is unusual and understandably concerning, the conduct described to police and viewed on video does not, by itself, constitute a crime. Based upon the information available, the individual's statements and actions are protected speech. Additionally, under New York State Penal Law § 140.05, a person who enters a business open to the public and leaves when directed to do so has generally not committed a Trespass.

Town of Fishkill Police remain alert for this individual and will take appropriate action should criminal conduct be reported or observed. Officers are also prepared to connect him with medical or social services if circumstances indicate that is appropriate.

We strongly encourage the public to report incidents that appear suspicious. An incident does not need to clearly be a crime for someone to call the police. Officers are trained to assess suspicious circumstances and safely interact with individuals who may be experiencing a crisis or are involved in criminal activity.

We also strongly *dis*courage members of the public from confronting or attempting to detain suspicious people themselves. Situations can become dangerous quickly. Maintain a safe distance, observe what you can, and contact police. We are here for exactly these kinds of things.

Chief Christopher Strattner, JD