

New details revealed in rape reported on Vanderbilt campus

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Reported by Alanna Autler - [email](#)

A rape on Vanderbilt University campus was reported Sept. 3, according to a daily crime log for the campus police department.

Records show the incident involving a student occurred on June 24.

"I think what is different now is people are actually willing to step up and say this is actually happening," said Ashley Titus, a senior at Vanderbilt.

The log characterizes the incident as "inactive." University officials said the same goes for another rape reported in Aug. 24.

Early in the semester, students received notification about a female student who was sexually assaulted in a dorm room.

"An anonymous call was made to our Project Safe hotline during which limited details were provided by the caller," wrote Beth Fortune, the vice chancellor of public affairs, in an email, referring to the alleged June 24 incident. "There was not enough information provided in either the August or June incidents to initiate a police investigation."

Under the Clery Act, universities must disclose information about campus crimes for statistical purposes.

Project Safe offers a hotline in which students can reach out for help in situations involving sexual violence. But the organization does not have the power to investigate incidents.

"The victim generally is seeking support and information but often not a police investigation," wrote Cara Tuttle Bell, the director of Project Safe Center for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Vanderbilt University. "If they want to pursue a police investigation, Project Safe will assist them in filing a report either with VUPD or Metro Police."

Advocates said victims stay silent for many reasons, including fear, uncertainty and doubt. The challenge is creating an environment where victims feel comfortable coming forward.

University leaders will host a ceremony on Wednesday for a new Project Safe building.

To contact the Sexual Assault Center, call 1-800-879-1999.

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