



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

L. GALE BUCKNER, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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**JUVENILE JUSTICE INVESTIGATES FRIDAY NIGHT ESCAPE FROM
AUGUSTA YDC**

(AUGUSTA-GA) Four youth are back in custody as local law enforcement continues their search for a fifth missing escapee after the five juvenile offenders were discovered absent from roll-call at the Youth Development Campus in Augusta early Friday night.

The five did not get far before a Juvenile Corrections Officer who was headed home at the end of shift, spotted the missing youth on a road nearby the DJJ Campus and reported the escape. The Department of Juvenile Justice requested immediate assistance from local law enforcement agencies.

Soon after, Richmond County sheriff's deputies responded to a stolen vehicle report and apprehended three of the youth following a brief car chase. Two other occupants ran into nearby woods. One of those youth later surrendered to a Department of Corrections canine team. No one was hurt in the round-up. None of the youth are from the Augusta area.

As night set in Friday, search teams called for a Georgia State Patrol helicopter for help combing a wooded area near Meadowbrook Circle and Bryan Circle where the stolen car was abandoned and the fifth juvenile was last seen. Searchers were looking for a teenager in shorts and a t-shirt and warning the public to call 9-1-1 and not to approach the youth who was believed to have driven the stolen getaway car.

As a standard security precaution, the Augusta detention facility was immediately placed on lockdown while investigators determine how the escape occurred. Investigators from the DJJ Office of Investigations have already been assigned on site to search the perimeter for security deficiencies, conduct a facility safety review, and to look for any laxes in protocols or policy violations which may have contributed to the escape.

(END RELEASE)