

## **B&G Club warning of candy scam**

### **Nothing sweet about these kids**

By Tenley Woodman | Thursday, July 3, 2008 | The Boston Herald | Local Coverage

Mama told you not to take candy from strangers for a reason.

The **Boston Boys & Girls Club** has received multiple reports in recent weeks of teenagers hawking candy bars to raise money for the club.

If only it were true.

Jan Goldstein, spokeswoman for the Boston Boys & Girls Club, said the nonprofit organization is not sending kids out to sell candy bars or raise funds.

“We don’t solicit the public in that manner, in supermarkets or shopping malls,” said Andrea Swain, director of the Yawkey Club in Roxbury.

Swain was tipped off to the candy scam two weeks ago when a teacher from Dearborn Middle School asked about teenagers selling candy at the Mission Hill Stop & Shop. The boys had a laminated information sheet bearing the name “Boys & Girls Club of America.”

“She contributed, but something didn’t seem right,” Swain said.

In Davis Square on June 22, Somerville police arrested a teenager who allegedly stole an iPhone while selling candy to “benefit” the Boys & Girls Club.

Sgt. Gerald Reardon, spokesman for the Somerville police, said the youth had \$54 in cash when he was arrested, as well as a letter bearing the address of the Blue Hills Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester. Reardon said the case is still under investigation.

Scott McLellan, executive director of the Blue Hills Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester, said he has been receiving complaints like this since November.

“For me, it has been ongoing for the last six months. Probably it’s just been six times or so where people have called up and complained,” McLellan said.

“One guy caught a kid at City Hall and he (the suspect) said it was a scam,” McLellan said.

The youth was not arrested.

Similar solicitations in Porter Square, Harvard Square, Government Center, Brigham Circle and Brighton also have been reported to the Boston Boys & Girls Club.

Tuesday morning, two teenagers were selling KitKat bars in the name of the Boys & Girls Club at the Stop & Shop on Everett Street in Brighton. Andrea Howard, executive director of the West End Boys & Girls Club in Brighton, said there's no connection to her club. In fact, she added, "we have often asked to be outside Stop & Shop and they have said no."