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Deputies Working Overtime to Catch Assault Suspect

(July 27, 2004) Deputies assigned to the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau are working overtime to find the man suspected of sexual assaults on two young women in the past 11 days at Union Station.

Additional deputies have been assigned around the clock to patrol the station and the adjacent parking structure. Metro Security officers and other law enforcement and private security agencies are cooperating in the heightened security effort.

Authorities are seeking a muscular African American male in his late 20s, standing 5-feet, 10-inches to 6-feet, 2-inches, with black hair, brown eyes and facial hair, carrying a black backpack. One of the women was able to fight off the suspect and escape unharmed.

"We're channeling information from different sources that has resulted in a lot of leads," says Metro Police Chief Capt. Dan Finkelstein. "We're working every one of these leads to do everything possible to solve these crimes."

Sheriff's Det. Jeanine Lum is leading the investigation. She says dogs have been used to trace scent trails and deputies have questioned a number of people who might have been near the scene of the assaults.

"I don't usually take these things personally," she says, "but I really want to see this guy in custody."

Two memos sent to Metro's Gateway employees, last week, included security precautions for walking in public areas. Employees also were reminded that they can request a parking lot escort 24 hours a day by contacting Metro Security at 922-7600.

Personal Security Precautions for Public Areas

- Remain alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Travel with more than one person whenever possible
- Stay in well-lit areas and areas where there are other people.
- Move quickly and purposefully out of more remote areas.
- Carry your keys between your fingers to use as a weapon, if needed, and to help you open doors more quickly.
- Speed-dial your cell phone with the phone number of your local police (cell phone 911 goes to CHP).
- On Metro property, set your cell phone to speed-dial the 24-hour Transit Services Bureau number at 323-563-5000 and Metro Security at 213-922-7600.
- Call Metro Security at 922-7600 if you feel you need an escort.