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DNA Links Suspect to Sexual Assaults in Parking Garage

Victim also identifies man during a Sheriff's lineup

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 10, 2004) DNA evidence confirms that a man arrested outside the Gateway Building, last week, committed two sexual assaults in the Union Station parking garage, according to Detective Jeanine Lum of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau.

One victim also identified Steven Jackson, 33, now being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail at the Men's Central Jail, during a live lineup Thursday evening.

With this evidence in hand, Lum now will file two sexual assault charges against Jackson. Charges in four other cases, investigated by LAPD Central Division detectives, are pending against Jackson.

Jackson was arrested at the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Vignes, Sept. 2, following an alleged sexual assault on the P-4 level of the parking

structure. The victim flagged down a Sheriff's patrol car and pointed out Jackson as the man who assaulted her.

The DNA evidence, gathered from the victim in a July 16 sexual assault and from the suspect following the Sept. 2 assault, was analyzed by the Sheriff's Crime Lab. The analysis conclusively linked Jackson with the first assault, Lum said.

Suspected of other attempts

Jackson also is suspected in an attempted sexual assault, July 22, in the Union Station parking garage and in another attempt on July 31 on the Metro Red Line.

Lum pointed to the cooperation between her department and LAPD Central Division detectives as important in gathering evidence that brought the investigation to a successful conclusion.

"It took all of us to bring this guy to custody," she said.

"I couldn't be prouder of our team," said Transit Police Chief Capt. Dan Finkelstein. "This was an emotionally charged situation and Detective Lum worked with her counterparts at LAPD and was very diligent in tying up all these aspects."



Sheriff's Detective
Jeanine Lum says
composite sketch,
drawn from a victim's
description of her
assailant, very closely
matches the appearance
of sexual assault
suspect Steven Jackson,
now in custody at the
Men's Central Jail.
(Photocopied sketch
courtesy of the Sheriff's
Transit Services
Bureau.)

Finkelstein noted that the investigation, which involved other area police departments and parole offices, also led to the arrest of a different suspect who allegedly molested two boys in Redondo Beach.

Evidence turned up following Jackson's arrest also may be of interest to law enforcement agencies in other western states, he said.

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