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- A 2-year-old child sleeps peacefully at Metro's ROC after being taken from an alleged drunken man standing on the Blue Line platform. (LASD photo: Face intentionally blurred to protect identity.)

Blue Line Deputies Arrest Man for ‘Endangering’ Child

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Feb. 4, 2010) A two-year-old child was safely turned over to her mother early in morning of Jan. 26 after several Metro passengers reported seeing a drunken man carrying a child while riding the Blue Line.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Jan. 25, Transit Bureau Deputies Joseph Benjamin and Brandon Green responded to calls reporting a “drunken adult male carrying a child,” said South Bureau Transit Dep. Andrew Bedogne.

Deputies caught up with the suspect at the Imperial/Wilmington Station Platform where passengers were quick to point out the man.

He told deputies he was the child’s father, but they determined it would be unsafe to let him continue holding the child, Bedogne said, adding the man “appeared to be sloppily drunk and swaying as he carried the child.”

Authorities charged the 25-year-old suspect with child endangerment and disorderly conduct and deputies at Metro’s ROC watched over the child for about four hours while her mother was located, and the Department of Children and Family Services was called.

“She was very quiet,” said Bedogne. “We set her up in front of a computer and put the Disney Channel on, and then she fell asleep,” covered in a borrowed deputy sheriff jacket.

The little girl’s mother was located and the child was released into her care after her interview with the DCFS.