



ROHNERT PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

Brian Masterson, Director

PRESS RELEASE

Sexual Assault Suspect Captured in Rohnert Park

For Immediate Release

Thursday, January 19, 2017 1:23 PM

Case# RP17-0232

Contact: Cmdr. Aaron Johnson (707) 584-2650

Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm

ROHNERT PARK – On January 18th 2017, Rohnert Park DPS Detectives investigated a sexual assault wherein a 44 year old developmentally disabled male had met a stranger in the shopping center located in the 600 block of Rohnert Park Expressway. The male subject befriended the victim by purchasing a soda for him. The male subject and the victim ended up going to the victim's apartment nearby. Due to the nature of the investigation, the victims address and identity will not be disclosed. The investigators in the case found surveillance video from a surrounding business and posted a picture of a "person of interest" on social media.

On January 19th at approximately 9:30AM, one of the detectives in the case was driving around the area of where the suspect and victim met and noticed 53 year old Richard Wells, who is transient in Rohnert Park, standing next to a van in the parking lot of 587 Rohnert Park Expressway. The detective noticed that Wells matched the surveillance video images of the suspect and was wearing similar clothing. When shown the images, Wells admitted to being the person in the surveillance images. The victim was brought to the scene where he positively identified Wells as the suspect.

Wells admitted to going back to the victim's apartment and having a sexual encounter with the victim knowing the victim had a mental disability. Wells was arrested for Sodomy of Victim Incapable of Giving Consent, Oral Copulation with Victim Incapable of Giving Consent, Penetration with a Foreign Object, and Burglary for entering into the apartment with the victim with the intent to commit a felony. Wells is being booked into the Sonoma County Jail on the above charges. Due to the nature of this crime, Wells' bail was increased to \$500,000.



2015 Sonoma County Booking Photo