



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

Type of Incident: Multiple Kidnapping/Sexual Assaults

Location of Incident: South Campus Area of Chico

Date/Time Occurred: August 2011 through October 2012

Date/Time of Arrest: January 26th, 2013/0624

Incident Case Number: Master Case Number 12-6983

Victim: Multiple, College Aged Women

Suspect: Lonnie Scott Keith, White Male Adult, 40 Years of Age, Chico Resident

Narrative:

Over the past (18) months, multiple incidents involving kidnappings, attempted kidnappings, and/or sexual assaults have occurred in the South Campus area of Chico. The two most recent incidents occurred in September and October of 2012.

During those specific incidents, the male suspect forced the female victims into the back seat area of a dark colored sedan (September incident) or the rear cargo area of a dark colored, larger SUV (October incident). Both victims were then injected with an unknown substance by the suspect. The substance caused a sedating, drowsy like effect for both. At least one of the victims was then sexually assaulted. One victim described the interior of the suspect vehicle (September incident) as having blankets and/or sheets covering the windows of the rear passenger compartment. In the October incident, the victim described the rear window of the SUV as being covered to conceal visibility. Additionally, the white male suspect was described as wearing rubber/latex gloves (at least one incident), and had a nylon stocking and/or mask over his face. Both victims had their hands and feet bound with plastic "zip ties", and their eyes covered with tape.

Supervisor:

Watch Commander:

Prepared By: Lt. Mike O'Brien **Date/Time:** 1-29-13/1400



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During the early morning hours of January 26th, 2013, Chico Police Detectives were engaged in an operation in the South Campus area. During that operation, a dark colored sedan was observed driving on two occasions in the target area, at approximately 2:30 AM and 3:30 AM. After observing a traffic violation, the vehicle was stopped by detectives. Upon contact with the driver, it was observed by the detectives that the rear passenger compartment had blankets and bedding partially covering the windows.

The driver, identified as Lonnie Scott Keith, then provided consent to search his vehicle.

Inside the vehicle, in the rear passenger compartment, the following items were located. The aforementioned blankets/bedding partially covering the rear window and concealing the compartment area. Two syringes loaded with an unknown clear substance. Rubber/latex gloves. Several nylons. Adhesive tape cut into strips. Later, after the service of a search warrant, the following was discovered in the vehicle, in a concealed compartment under the front passenger seat: Metal handcuffs and metal leg restraints. Plastic "zip ties". Multiple syringes. Multiple vials of prescription drugs, each with a sedating effect when introduced into the body. Several of the prescription vials contain a specific substance found in one of our victims' toxicology screen after the October kidnap/sexual assault. Additional rubber/latex gloves. Also, a combination flashlight/stun gun was found in the vehicle, as well as looped "zip ties" concealed in the trunk of the vehicle. It appears as if the vehicle was staged for another assault.

Through investigation, it was learned that Mr. Keith had sold a dark colored sedan and a dark colored SUV in December of 2012. We have seized both of those vehicles, and pursuant to a search warrant, both will be processed for evidence purposes.

Mr. Keith, it was determined, is employed as a Physician's Assistant at Oroville Medical Center and Enloe Occupational Health. He is married with four children. He does not have an arrest record.

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Mr. Keith will be arraigned on two counts of Kidnapping, one count of Rape and one count of Assault with Intent to Commit Rape. The total potential sentence is 32 years to Life Imprisonment. These charges relate specifically to the September and October incidents. Bail will be requested at \$3,200,000. He will be arraigned today, at 3:00 PM, in the Butte County Superior Court.

We emphasize that these investigations remain active. There is DNA evidence associated with several of the incidents. This and other evidence has been collected and is being forensically processed. There is an additional investigation being conducted by the Butte County Sheriff's Office regarding a similar type incident in their jurisdiction.

While this is an important arrest for our Department and community, it is an especially important one for our victims and potential victims.

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