THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATTEMPT KIDNAP CASE IN EASTERN DIVISION

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Eastern Division officers handled an attempt kidnap call this morning at about 7 a.m. in the area of Mission Trails Park Visitor's Center. The female victim called the police after a man tried to grab her arm while she was leaving the park area after exercising. At the time of the attack, she was in the 8200 block of Mission Gorge Road near the intersection of El Banquero Place.

The victim describes the suspect as a Hispanic male in his late 20s to early 30s, clean shaven, medium colored skin, with dark hair in a long ponytail. He was wearing a black t-shirt and black jeans, and is about 5"7" and 165lbs. The suspect has a band tattoo on his left arm. The suspect was driving a black, older model Chevy Astro Van with Baja California license plates. The suspect left the area headed toward Santee on Mission Gorge Road.

About two and a half weeks ago, another incident possibly involving the same suspect and vehicle occurred in the same area. Two women were leaving Mission Trails Park after exercising. They had noticed a black van circling the area. When they saw the van pull up near them, one of the women used her cell phone to call for help. The suspect saw her use the phone and left headed toward Santee on Mission Gorge Road. The time of this incident was late morning.

SDPD gives the following recommendations:

- Try to exercise with others versus alone
- Keep your cell phone with you; but don't use your cell phone unless you need to call for assistance
- Notify family members or friends of your exercise route and schedule in case you don't return on time

- If you listen to a radio while exercising, only use one headphone so that you can hear what is going on around you

- Be aware of your surroundings; if you see someone you believe is circling the area or casing the area, notify Park Rangers or police immediately

Anyone with information about this incident or the suspect is encouraged to call the San Diego Police Department (619) 531-2000 or Eastern Division at (858) 495-7900 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-TIPS. By calling Crime Stoppers you can remain anonymous and could be eligible for a reward of up to $1000 if your information leads to an arrest in this case.

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