

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 26, 2009 CONTACT: Lt. Rick O'Hanlon

(619) 531-2686

DETECTIVES INVESTIGATE BALBOA PARK MOLESTATION INCIDENT

(San Diego) San Diego Police Child Abuse detectives are Investigating the molestation of a four-year-old girl that occurred in Balboa Park on Sunday, January 25, 2009.

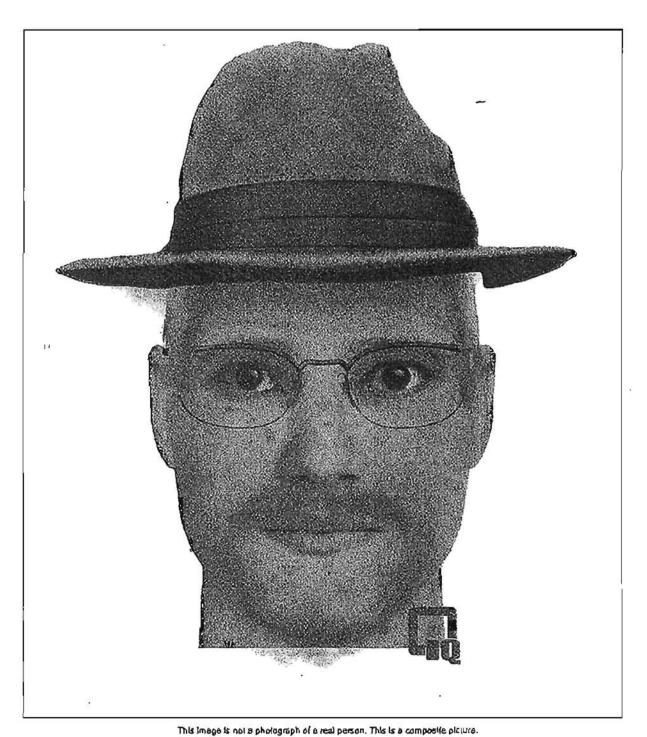
At about 3:00 p.m., the victim became separated from her parents and older brother while playing hide-and-seek. The victim's parents and friend started searching for the girl and contacted San Diego Fire Department personnel who were at the park. Numerous police officers and Park Rangers began searching for the missing girl.

The girl stated the suspect walked up to her near the Natural History Museum and said he would take the victim to the victim's mother. The suspect is described as a white male, 55, 5' 10", 180 pounds, white hair. He was wearing eyeglasses, a green windbreaker, tan pants, and a hat. He walked the victim to his vehicle where the molestation took place (inside the suspect's vehicle). The vehicle was parked in a lot adjacent to either the Natural History Museum or Spanish Village. At this time detectives do not have a description of the suspect's vehicle. The female victim was then released by the suspect and was not injured. The victim was located about forty-five minutes after she was initially reported missing near the Spanish Village area. A short time later, the victim disclosed she was molested.

A composite of the suspect is attached to page two of this release.

Anyone with information concerning this case is asked to contact the San Diego Police Department's Child Abuse Unit at (619) 531-2260 or San Diego County Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

Lieutenant O'Hanlon will be available for interviews in front of SDPD headquarters at 3 p.m. this afternoon.



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