



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2009

CONTACT: Lt. Rick O'Hanlon
(619) 531-2686

SERIAL RAPIST ARRESTED FOR 2000-2001 SEXUAL ASSAULTS

(San Diego) A series of five "hot prowl" burglaries and sexual assaults occurred in San Diego from June of 2000 through February of 2001. The series was dubbed the "A.M. Rapist" series and took place in the Ocean Beach, Mission Beach and College West communities during the late evening or early morning hours. The suspect made entry into the residences through unlocked doors or windows and sexually assaulted the victims. Detectives were able to link the five cases through physical evidence collected at the crime scenes.

On July 22, 2009, evidence was developed that identified Stephen D. Richardson, age 33, (presently living in Arlington Heights, Illinois) as a suspect in the September 2, 2000 sexual assault from Ocean Beach. The District Attorney's Office issued a warrant of arrest charging Richardson with the September 2, 2000 sexual assault.

On August 11, 2009, detectives from the SDPD Sex Crimes Unit, assisted by officers and detectives from the Arlington Heights Police Department arrested Richardson outside his residence in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

A DNA sample was obtained from Richardson at the time of his arrest. That sample matched the samples gathered at the five "A.M. Rapist" series cases.

Richardson was extradited back to San Diego and faces numerous charges associated with the "A.M. Rapist" series. He is expected to be arraigned early next week.

A photograph of Richardson will not be released.

Lieutenant O'Hanlon will be available for interviews in front of SDPD headquarters at 4 pm. today.

###