



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Suitable For Public Dissemination

Hawthorne police arrested a female Monday morning after she led officers in a brief high speed pursuit. What makes this case unique is the female suspect just hit a pedestrian (a 72 yr old female) and forcibly put the pedestrian in her car.

On Monday, May 4, 2009 at around 9 am, Hawthorne Police responded to the intersection of 134th Street and Hawthorne Blvd to reports of a traffic accident. A pedestrian was hit by a car.

An undercover officer who was in the area arrived at the scene as the suspect vehicle was leaving. The officer directed assisting units to the fleeing vehicle. The suspect failed to stop when officers attempted to pull her over and led police on a high speed pursuit; travelling at speeds over 80 mph and going through busy intersections blowing through red lights. The suspect finally stopped in the 12600 block of Eucalyptus Ave where she was arrested in front of her residence. Officers located the pedestrian that was hit in the front seat of the suspect's car.

Witnesses described what they saw at the scene of the accident:

I did not see the actual accident by I saw the victim on the ground following the accident. The driver was dragging the victim into the front passenger seat of her vehicle. The victim was screaming while she was dragging her (the pedestrian) to the vehicle. After the suspect got the victim into her vehicle, the suspect picked up the victims shoes and put them inside her vehicle. The suspect then got back into her vehicle and fled the scene northbound on Hawthorne Blvd out of sight.

(Another Witness)

The suspect started to drag the victim towards her vehicle. The suspect dragged the victim over to her vehicle and propped her up against it while she opened her passenger side door. I went over to the suspect and told her to leave the victim alone. I saw the vehicle keys in the ignition so I tried to remove them but the suspect got to them first.

At the suspect's home, Officers discovered there were three children home alone unsupervised (the oldest being 4 yrs old).

It is not known what the suspect was attempting to do with the victim. The victim was taken to a local hospital for her injuries and she was listed in stable condition.

The suspect was charged with kidnapping, child endangerment, and evading police. She also had three no bail warrants for her arrest.

Arrested:

Alexis Lewis, 26 years old,
Hawthorne.

Photo not available.