

Sheriff nets West Hollywood dognappers

May 10, 2010 – By WeHo News Staff, West Hollywood

West Hollywood, California (May 10, 2010) - Records show no kidnappings in West Hollywood at all for quite some time, but last week WeHo suffered a dognapping.

On Sunday evening at around 6:45, May 2, Sheriffs deputies responded to a report of kidnapping on the 800 block of Larrabee.

The victim reported that a man and woman had held her against her will and stolen her dog.

After making the report and seeking treatment at Cedars-Sinai Hospital, sheriffs returned to the scene to investigate around 9 pm.

It became apparent to detectives that one or both of the suspects were known to the department due to previous encounters.

The victim called deputies back to her home early the next morning, at about 1:30 am, to report that a suspect had returned to ask for a ransom for the woman's Chihuahua. They allegedly wanted \$500 for the companion animal.

She reported that the male suspect left the scene on a mountain bike with the victim on his tail.

Deputies caught up with the pair at Alfred and Romaine, where deputies apprehended the man and the victim identified him on the spot as the perpetrator. Deputies soon located and arrested the female suspect.

The male is identified as Jonathon Matta, age 42, of West Hollywood. His alleged partner in crime was identified as Meghan Mahoney, age 37, of Los Angeles.

The pair were booked on false imprisonment and robbery, with Mr. Matta also being charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The dog was recovered and picked up by the victim the next morning.

The District Attorney sent the case back to detectives for more investigation.

In lieu of charges being filed, both alleged suspects were released from jail and remain free.