

Lawrence Police Department
Media Release
June 16, 2010
Case # 02-10-7511

On June 16, 2010 at approximately 3:17 pm, personnel from the Lawrence Police Department, the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and the Kansas Highway Patrol responded to the city bike path just east of Clinton Lake Dam Road in reference to a stabbing. Upon arrival officers located the 23 year old female Lawrence resident who had been stabbed. Witnesses on the scene reported the victim had been attacked as she was riding on the bike path east of the Dam Road. The victim has been transported to a local hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries. There is no indication the suspect knew the victim before the attack.

The suspect fled the scene but after a brief search was located by responding officers and has been placed into custody. No other subjects are believed to have been involved in this attack.

The investigation is ongoing and more information will be released when it becomes available.

Sergeant Bill Cory
Media Relations

Update
June 17, 2010

On Wednesday, June 16, 2010, at approximately 4:15 p.m., members of the Lawrence Police Department arrested William Nichols, 30, on charges of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated battery, attempted rape, criminal use of a weapon, and sexual battery.

The victim was riding her bicycle on the city bike path when she encountered the suspect. The suspect attacked the victim, grabbing her off the bicycle in the process. The victim fought with the suspect who was armed with a knife. As the struggle ensued, two other individuals who were running on the bike path came upon the scene. Mr. Aidan Waugh and Mr. Nathaniel Mehl were able to stop the attack and chased off the suspect. Without the actions of Mr. Waugh and Mr. Mehl, the attack may have resulted in a more serious outcome.

Investigation has revealed that Mr. Nichols, who arrived in Lawrence several months ago, travelled to the secluded area of the bike path with the intent to target a female victim. The victim was not known to the suspect and was apparently chosen at random at the location. Investigation has also uncovered at least two other incidents,

the second previously unreported, in which Mr. Nichols' involvement is being investigated:

Case # 02-10-4464. On April 15, 2010, at approximately 9:40 p.m., a 22 year old Lawrence resident was walking in the area of 9th and Mississippi Street when a white male in his 20's approached her and pinched her on her buttocks. The male fled the area after the incident.

Case # 02-10-7524. On June 15, 2010, at approximately 3:35 p.m., a 21 year old Lawrence resident was walking in the 1600 block of University Drive when a white male who had appeared to have been following her, caught up to her and groped her breast. The suspect fled after the incident. He was described as skinny, with long brown hair. The victim reported this incident after observing media coverage of the incident on the bike path.

All three incidents are still under investigation. Anyone with information about these crimes or anyone who may have had a similar encounter not yet reported is asked to call the Investigations Division at 830-7430 during normal business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F). After hours, please call 832-7509.

Sergeant Bill Cory
Media Relations