

## SUSPECT IN ATTEMPT KIDNAP CASES HELD TO ANSWER FOR MULTIPLE FELONY CHARGES

The Sheriff's Department is pleased to announce that a suspect who annoyed and grabbed several young teenage girls in the Azusa area has been identified and arrested, and was recently held to answer in Pomona Superior Court.

Three incidents occurred in 2012 in the unincorporated area of Azusa; all involved a similar suspect, vehicle, and suspect actions. In each case, the suspect drove near teen girls age 13-15 and grabbed them by the arm or waist, sometime pulling them several feet.

Detectives [published "Wanted Person" fliers](#), and scoured the area for leads and witnesses. The trail ran cold, and by January 2013, Sheriff's detectives had no further investigative leads. Then, in August 2013, a Sheriff's Department member saw information distributed by the El Monte Police Department.

El Monte Police identified Milton Joel Melgar, a 30 year old Honduran native residing in Alhambra, in three cases involving girls age 14 to 16. Victims described Melgar as someone who approached young girls and offered them employment, money, and/or gifts. He spoke only Spanish to his victims, and told detectives he had taken girls to Alhambra-area hotels.

Detectives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, San Dimas Station, compared photos of Melgar to their previously published Wanted Person fliers, and saw striking similarities. Three victims and witnesses identified Melgar as the person responsible for the incidents that occurred in unincorporated Azusa in 2012.

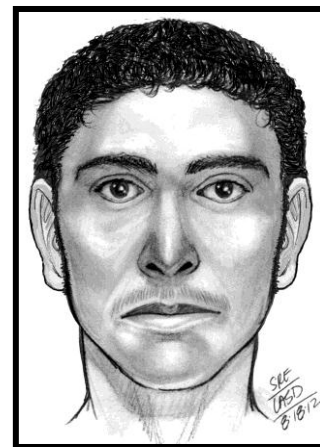
Witnesses identified Melgar in court, and on February 11, 2014, Melgar was held to answer on multiple counts, including kidnapping, attempt kidnapping, contact with minors with intent to commit a sexual offense, and lewd acts upon a child. He remains in custody with bail set at \$1.28 million. He faces 25 years in prison if convicted on all counts.



Milton Melgar



Artist's sketch from incident  
on July 28, 2012 in  
unincorporated Azusa



Artist's sketch from incident  
on August 16, 2012 in  
unincorporated Azusa

## **LASD HEADQUARTERS:**

*Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau - Newsroom*

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

*323-267-4800*

*Email: [SHBNewsroom@lasd.org](mailto:SHBNewsroom@lasd.org)*

*Website: <http://www.lasd.org>*

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*Alert LA County: Telephone emergency mass notification system*

*<http://www.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>*

*SNAP LA County: Specific Needs Disaster Voluntary Registry <http://snap.lacounty.gov/>*

*Text & Email, Register for LASD Nixle messages: To receive more detailed, up-to-date information via E-MAIL and/or TEXT directly from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), sign up for "Nixle" alerts at <http://www.Nixle.com> and register for "LASD – Headquarters Newsroom (SHB), Los Angeles County Sheriff" AND your local LASD station area. Or, to receive URGENT TEXT ALERTS ONLY, text your zip code to 888777. Standard text messaging rates may apply depending on your calling plan.*

*"If You See Something, Say Something"*

*LA Crime Stoppers: Partner to prevent or report crime by contacting your local Sheriff's station. Or if you wish to remain Anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>*

*John L. Scott, Sheriff*

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

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## **SAN DIMAS STATION**

San Dimas Sheriff's Station is one of six stations within the East Patrol Division of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Station's jurisdiction encompasses approximately 276 square miles. In addition to serving the City of San Dimas, the station serves unincorporated communities of Azusa, Covina, Glendora, La Verne, Claremont, Pomona, the Los Angeles County portion of Mt. Baldy, a large portion of the Angeles National Forest (State Route 39), and portions of Angeles Crest Highway

(Highway 2). The population for these areas is approximately one hundred and five thousand (105,000), nearly sixty-six thousand (69,000) in the unincorporated areas and more than thirty-six thousand (36,000) in the City of San Dimas.

San Dimas Sheriff's Station  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
270 S. Walnut Avenue  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(909) 450-2700

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SDMLASD>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanDimasSheriffsStation>

Website: <http://www.SanDimas.lasd.org>

LASD Text & Email (Register at <http://www.Nixle.com> :  
<http://local.nixle.com/lasd---san-dimas-station-los-angeles-county-sheriff/>

And/or, in the [City of San Dimas, Code Red](#) <http://bit.ly/130HiGY>