



# City of Downey

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## Press Release

March 20, 2012

### License Plate Reader Helps Locate Missing Woman and Her Two Daughters

An officer's license plate reader helped Downey Police locate a missing woman and her two daughters who were being held against their will by their estranged husband/father at a local hotel.

On Sunday evening, the victim's sister reported her missing along with her two daughters, ages 11 and 7, after the victim failed to show up for a scheduled meeting with her. When the sister called the victim's phone, the victim's estranged husband answered and then hung up. Subsequent calls to the victim's phone went unanswered and nobody was home at the victim's residence. Downey Police were then notified.

Detectives searching for the woman entered her vehicle's license plate number into a data base that compiles all the license plates that had recently been captured by various mobile and stationary license plate reader units in Los Angeles County. The system immediately alerted detectives that the victim's vehicle had been seen in Downey by one of the license plate reader units earlier in the evening. This information led detectives to the Downey Embassy Suites Hotel where they located the victim's car in the parking lot. Her estranged husband's car was also located in the same lot. Detectives soon after found the victim and her daughters being held against their will inside one of the hotel rooms. Before police arrived, the suspect had physically assaulted the victim and one of her daughters, threatened to throw the victim from the hotel balcony, and ripped the phone cords from the walls to prevent the victims from calling for help. The victim further explained that although she and her daughters had agreed to meet her estranged husband at the hotel, he then refused to let them leave after they arrived.

The suspect, 36-year-old Edson Mijangos of Bellflower, was arrested for False Imprisonment and taken to the Los Angeles County Jail. He is scheduled to be arraigned in Downey Superior Court on Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

Press inquiries may be directed to Detective Robert Del Rio at (562) 904-2325