

United States Marshals Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seattle Rape Suspect Arrested in Ohio

A man suspected of committing a rape on the streets of Seattle almost two years ago was arrested today in Springfield, Ohio by deputy U.S. Marshals and police officers from the Springfield Police Department. Norris Lee PASS Jr., age 46, was wanted by the Seattle Police Department as the primary suspect for a violent rape in 2005.

Late in the evening of January 3, 2005, an adult female victim was walking in the Pioneer Square area of downtown Seattle when she was suddenly grabbed from behind and dragged into a nearby alley. The suspect told the victim to “shut up or I will cut you.” The victim noted that the suspect was armed with a knife. The victim was helpless throughout the rape and was unable to call the authorities until the suspect fled the area.

Through evidence collected during the investigation, the suspect was recently identified to be Norris Lee PASS Jr., a man who was staying in Seattle at the time and had a prior arrest for rape and kidnapping in Springfield, Ohio in 1997. The fugitive case was then turned over to the U.S. Marshals sponsored Pacific Northwest Fugitive Apprehension Task Force (PNWFAT) on December 18, 2006, in order to track down and bring the subject to justice. The PNWFAT soon developed leads that PASS was living and working in Springfield, Ohio. A collateral lead was sent to the U.S. Marshals Office in Dayton, Ohio, on December 19, 2006, requesting they locate and apprehend PASS.

Deputy U.S. Marshals in Dayton confirmed PASS’ residence and place of employment. On Friday, December 22, 2006, Deputy U.S. Marshals and officers from the Springfield Police Department teamed up and gave PASS a surprise visit at his place of employment in Springfield. PASS was taken into custody and booked into the Clark County Jail in Springfield where he awaits extradition back to Seattle.

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The PNWFAT is a U.S. Marshals-sponsored partnership comprised of investigators from the King County Sheriffs Office, Seattle Police Department, Washington State Department of Corrections, the U.S. Social Security Administration OIG, and the U.S. Marshals Service. The Task Force is supported by the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative and was formed to concentrate apprehension efforts to remove federal, state and local fugitives from the streets. The Task Force objective is to disrupt illegal gun and drug traffickers in the Pacific Northwest and to reduce the amount of violence in the region.

For additional information on other major case fugitives, go to the U.S. Marshals Service's website at www.usmarshals.gov. For additional information on the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative, go to the PSN website at www.psn.gov.

For information on the apprehension, call U.S. Marshal Eric E. Robertson at 206-370-8601 or 253-302-8601; for information on the criminal case, call the King County Prosecutor's Office at 206-296-9000.