

Los Angeles Times - April 6, 2010

Rape charges filed against Westminster police officer, state corrections officer

By Paloma Esquivel

A Westminster police detective and a corrections officer were charged Tuesday in the alleged rape and kidnapping of a 25-year-old restaurant worker in Ontario.

Westminster Police Det. Anthony Nicholas Orban, 30, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of kidnapping the woman at Ontario Mills Mall and raping her at gunpoint. Corrections Officer Jeff Thomas Jelinek, 30, from the Chino Institution for Men, was arrested on suspicion of carjacking and is being charged as an accessory to the crime.

In a 14-page felony complaint filed Tuesday by the San Bernardino County district attorney's office, Orban is charged with kidnapping, rape, forced oral copulation, penetration with a foreign object, forced sodomy and making criminal threats.

Jelinek is charged with kidnapping, rape and being an accessory after the fact. While Jelinek did not rape the woman he was charged because his actions aided the crime, said Deputy Dist. Atty. Debbie Ploghaus.

"What makes it so heinous is the fact that [Orban] is a police officer and his job is to protect people and this is what he's doing," Ploghaus said. "They are both law enforcement officers."

According to Ontario police, the woman was walking to her car in the parking lot of Ontario Mills Mall about 5 p.m. Saturday when she was confronted by the men. Orban allegedly got in her car, pointed a gun at her and forced her to drive away while Jelinek stood by and watched, police said.

Orban then allegedly ordered the woman to drive to a commercial complex in Fontana, where he raped her. About two hours after she was kidnapped, the woman was able to get out of the car and run to a business to call police, Ploghaus said.

Authorities connected Orban to the incident because he left his service weapon in the woman's car after he fled and was picked up by Jelinek, police said.

Orban has been with the Westminster Police Department for five years and is assigned to criminal investigations. Jelinek has worked for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation since 2006. Both men are being held at the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga and have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation. If convicted, each faces a sentence of 25 years to life in prison on the rape charge.

Both men are expected to be arraigned Wednesday at the Rancho Cucamonga courthouse. Prosecutors have asked that bail for both be raised from \$1 million to \$2 million.

“We believe they’re a danger,” Ploghaus said. “Both of them are a danger to society.”