



LODI POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Release Date and Time: January 17th, 2010 @ 8:00 pm

Subject: Drug Deal Gone Bad

LPD Case # 10-379

Details: On the evening of January 16th, 2010 at approximately 11:00 pm Lodi Police officers came across people arguing in the area of Ham Ln. and Century Blvd. Officers learned that the argument stemmed from a drug deal that went bad.

Suspect Richard Wheeler II met with three other subjects near the intersection of Ham Ln. and Kettleman Lane where Wheeler was going to sell Ecstasy pills to them for \$100 dollars. The prospective buyers decided to keep the pills and not pay Wheeler, so they sped away. Wheeler got into his vehicle and pursued the other individuals and began "ramming" their vehicle several times causing moderate to major damage. The other vehicle finally stopped and Wheeler got out and began hitting the windows on the other car with a tire iron. The driver of that vehicle, Grace Smith, got out of her car and stabbed Wheeler in the abdomen with a knife. Wheeler fled the area to seek medical treatment moments before officers arrived.

Officers found Wheeler at a nearby hospital where he was treated for a deep puncture wound. Wheeler was ultimately arrested and booked for using his vehicle as a deadly weapon. Grace Smith was also arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. The money and Ecstasy pills were not recovered and possibly discarded prior to the arrival of police.



Richard Allen Wheeler



Grace Carol Smith

Persons with information on this or any criminal case or activity are encouraged to call Lodi Area Crimestoppers at 209-333-6771. You may remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.