



PRESS RELEASE

Westminster Police Department
Darin Lenyi, Chief of Police

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

714-898-3315 | www.Westminster-CA.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 25, 2022

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WESTMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL EMPLOYEE SEXUALLY ASSAULTS STUDENT

Date/Time: March 16, 2022/ 12:04 PM
ARRESTEE: Zackary Joseph Valenzuela, 21 years old, resident of Westminster
CHARGES: California Penal Code 261.5(d) – Unlawful sexual intercourse
California Penal Code 647.6(a) – Annoy/molest children under 18

WESTMINSTER, CA – On March 16, 2022, at approximately 1204 hours, the WPD School Resource Officer responded to Westminster High School reference a sexual assault investigation. At the school, the officer learned a 21-year-old paid Westminster High School student aide, Zackary Valenzuela, was possibly having an inappropriate relationship with a 16-year-old female student. WPD detectives assisted in the investigation and it was reported Valenzuela sexually assaulted the female student.

Valenzuela is suspected of communicating with the student through social media, then text messaging. The relationship is suspected to have evolved into meeting at fast food restaurants then Valenzuela began driving the student to get ice cream and to various parks, where he is suspected of kissing and fondling her. Eventually, Valenzuela allegedly lured the student to his residence where he sexually assaulted her inside his bedroom. Valenzuela was arrested and booked into the Orange County Jail for the listed charges.



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WPD detectives are continuing the investigation and urge anyone who believes they may have been victimized by Valenzuela to come forward and contact the Westminster Police Department. Also, anyone who has additional information, or who may have witnessed Valenzuela's suspected inappropriate behavior to contact the Westminster Police Department at 714-548-3212, or Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCCS or by logging on to www.occrimestoppers.org. Callers can remain anonymous.