



USF POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: September 27, 2011

CONTACT: Lt. Christopher Daniel
(813) 974-3961

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence Arrest



Synopsis:

A number of rumors abound regarding an incident that occurred last night on the USF campus. We understand that many are under the false impression that a sexual battery occurred and that, as a result, the University has gone into a lock-down status or has otherwise limited its services. Such information is incorrect. The university remains fully functional and engaged in routine business activities. While a criminal incident not related to a sexual battery did occur, and for which an arrest was made, the suspect never posed a risk to members of the USF community. The details have somehow been significantly misconstrued by those who may have heard about the following:

On September 26, 2011, just after 11:00 p.m., USF Police Officers responded to a call of a woman screaming in a vehicle parked just west of the Andros Complex. Responding officers observed a woman in distress and approached the vehicle. A male, later identified as non-USF affiliate Rosario Louis-Maurice Saintgeraud of 18916 N.W. 80th Court in Miami, fled the area on foot just after officers arrived on scene. With the support of Tampa Police Departments' aviation unit and a Hillsborough County Sheriffs' Office canine unit, officers located Saintgeraud hiding in dense vegetation west of the scene, but on campus. Saintgeraud was arrested by USF Police officers and was transported to the Hillsborough County Central Booking Facilities after being treated for minor injuries

University Police Department
4202 East Fowler Avenue (UPB002)
Tampa, Florida 33620
813.974.2628 Main
813.974.5616 Fax
<http://www.usfpd.usf.edu>



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resulting from the pursuit. Saintgeraud was charged with the crimes of Kidnapping, Domestic Battery by Strangulation, and Opposing an Officer without Violence.

The non-USF affiliated victim, who has been in a relationship with Saintgeraud, told officers that she agreed to meet Saintgeraud in a USF parking lot to talk after they attended a USF lecture series event featuring guest speaker, rap artist “Common”. During the discussion, Saintgeraud became physically aggressive, attempting to choke her while prohibiting her from exiting the vehicle. The victim received minor injuries which were treated at the scene by Tampa Fire Rescue personnel. Services were provided to the victim by members of the USF Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention.