



## **WILLOUGHBY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*~DETECTIVE BUREAU~*

36700 EUCLID AVE, WILLOUGHBY, OHIO 44094  
PH. (440) 953-4210 \* FAX (440) 953-4225 \* DISPATCH (440)  
951-1234

### **Press Release**

October 06, 2010

On Sunday, October 03, 2010 approximately 03:45 AM, the Willoughby Fire Department was dispatched to a fire alarm at the Travelodge, 34600 Maplegrove Avenue, Willoughby, Ohio.

The Willoughby Fire Department discovered that a fire alarm had been pulled and a fire extinguisher had been discharged on the second floor of the south building.

A couple from the Columbus area, staying at the motel on the second floor, was awakened by the fire alarm. The male guest went to the lobby to investigate the alarm leaving his room unsecured.

While the male guest was down in the lobby, a suspect unknown to the couple, entered their room. The female guest ordered the suspect out of the room to which he initially complied. The suspect then returned to the door and pushed his way in. The suspect then locked himself inside the room with the female. The suspect physically assaulted the female as she tried to escape the room.

A first floor guest contacted the lobby and advised that they could hear a female screaming from the room above him. Firefighters on scene requested police response.

Police officers arrived shortly after. As police were preparing to enter the room, the suspect crashed through the second floor glass window landing outside on the parking lot below.

The suspect was detained by police and identified Joseph Wretschko, age 30, of Willoughby. Wretschko was transported to Hillcrest Hospital and released the next day. The female guest was transported to LakeWest Hospital where she was treated and released.

It was later learned that Wretschko had attempted to gain entry to other occupied rooms after the fire alarm was pulled, but was unsuccessful.



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Prior to the incident, Wretschko had been visiting a friend whom was a registered guest of the Travelodge.

Wretschko voluntarily turned himself in to the Willoughby Police Department on Tuesday evening and is facing the following charges:

Aggravated Burglary F1  
Kidnapping F1  
Attempted Aggravated Burglary (3 counts) F2  
Inducing Panic F4  
Vandalism F5  
Assault M1  
Aggravated Trespassing M1



Joseph Wretschko