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**Hayward-area real estate agent thwarts rape suspect**

By Rachel Cohen, STAFF WRITER  
 Article Last Updated: 08/28/2007 07:29:48 PM PDT

A 47-year-old real estate agent's quick thinking saved her life and led to an arrest soon after she was allegedly raped by a prospective buyer earlier this month in unincorporated Hayward, police said in a statement today.

The suspect, 24-year-old Howard Moore of San Leandro, was charged with rape, kidnapping and robbery. He is set to enter a plea on Sept. 27.

Police could not be reached for comment on the case.

The woman, whose identity is being withheld to protect her privacy, wants real estate agents and owners who try to sell their own homes to know how vulnerable they are when they show a property. She suggests that potential buyers meet the agent at the office first and give a copy of their driver's license and license plate number, so that there is a record of the person at the office.

The woman said Moore called her three times to make an appointment to see a house she was showing. When he showed up on Aug. 16, she walked him through the house and when they ended in the kitchen, he allegedly attacked her from behind and tried to strangle her.

She alleges that after he released his grip, he jumped on top of her in the bedroom and stole her jewelry. The woman said she stayed calm enough to keep talking to Moore the whole time, and that even though they both were shaking, she told him she was going to help him.

"You've been dealt a bad hand. If you rob me, that is not going to go get you anywhere," she said she told him.

Moore then allegedly

pushed her into a guest house in the backyard, where he spotted a bat and the woman began to fear the worst. He reportedly raped her there, but she pretended it was OK and kept talking to him.

"I got him to trust me," she said.

The woman told Moore she was not going to call police and that she had a friend who could get him a job. After the alleged rape, the woman convinced Moore to sit with her on the porch.

She said she wanted to get Moore to stay so that he wouldn't be on the street, where it would be hard to catch him.

Moore dialed the woman's friend on speaker phone, and the friend said he would help Moore get a job. During their talk, the woman said Moore started to cry, gave her back her rings and let her go to her house, which was just down the street, so she could get money for him.

After 40 minutes, Moore walked away and the woman went to her neighbor's house. Moore called the woman several times to make sure she wasn't calling the police and to find out when he could meet for the job interview.

Read the full story in Wednesday's Daily Review.

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