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Bride-to-be goes missing

■ Yale student vanishes just before wedding on LI
■ She was last seen on Tuesday at campus lab

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Local police and the FBI have launched an intensive search for a Yale University graduate student who apparently disappeared just days before she was set to marry a Huntington man this weekend.

Authorities say Annie Le was last seen on Tuesday morning at a Yale research lab. The 24-year-old doctoral student in pharmacology has not contacted friends, family or colleagues since then, according to The Associated Press. She is to wed Huntington native Jonathan Widawsky, a Columbia University graduate student in physics, at the North Ritz Club in Syosset on Sunday morning, according to a neighbor who is invited to the ceremony.

"I heard she was a nice girl and very much in love with him [Widawsky], and he with her," said Lucille Mayer, who lives next door to the Widawsky family on Bittersweet Place in Huntington.

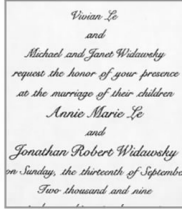
No one answered the door at the Widawsky home last night, and Jonathan Widawsky could not be reached for comment. Yale officials told the Yale Daily News Widawsky is in New Haven, cooperating with authorities investigating Le's disappearance.

Entries on her Facebook page indicated a young woman excited about her upcoming wedding, the New Haven Register reported. "Lucky I'm in love with my best friend," Le posted.

Le swiped her university identification card to enter the lab building about 10 a.m., but left her purse, cell phone, credit cards and cash in her office, located in another Yale building about three blocks away, the Yale Daily News reported. The university stepped up security in that building yesterday, according to published reports.



Yale graduate student Annie Le, who was to be married this weekend in Huntington, has been missing since Tuesday.



Tom Conroy, a Yale spokesman, told the Register last night that "there's no evidence . . . at this time" of foul play in Le's disappearance.

State police used bloodhounds to search the area where Le was last seen, and the FBI was assisting the investigation, Yale Police Chief James Perotti told the AP. Authorities also are reviewing images from closed-circuit cameras.

"It's an intense, ongoing investigation," Yale spokeswoman Dorie Baker told the Hartford Courant.

Yale University police officers handed out fliers with Le's picture and when she was last seen. Posters were hung at the entrances to medical school buildings and a digital billboard on Interstate 91 southbound, near the New Haven city line, featured a photo of Le and a police tip line phone number, the Register reported.

Le, originally from Placerville, Calif., met Widawsky when they were undergraduates at the University of Rochester, according to published reports.

She was a lively, hardworking student then, according to her mentor, Rocky Tuan, who supervised a highly selective National Institutes of Health undergraduate scholars program.

"She was a very happy person," Tuan told the Register. "Everybody got along with her. She's always smiling, laughing."

Le, 4-foot-11 and weighing 90 pounds, was last seen wearing a brown skirt, green short-sleeved T-shirt, brown shoes and a brown necklace.



Le, in Yale surveillance photo, at 10 Amistad St., Tuesday.

Seen on camera and then, gone

10 a.m. Tuesday, Annie Le is seen on surveillance cameras entering Yale research lab.

Later Tuesday, Le reported missing after she failed to return to her office.

Thursday, Officials search neighborhood where research lab is located.

Sunday, Le and Jonathan Widawsky were to be married at North Ritz Club in Syosset.

NOW ONLINE
Look for breaking news updates on the disappearance of Annie Le.
newsday.com

Demands on Lighthouse

BY EDEN LAIKIN
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Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray sent a letter to Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi yesterday saying she and the other town board members "will be looking for" specific provisions in the county's lease with the developers of the Lighthouse project before the board approves zoning for the site.

The letter was met with surprise and anger by Suozzi and Lighthouse principal investor Charles Wang.

But Murray, in an interview last night, said the provisions should come as no surprise. "There are no new issues," she said. "Both Suozzi and Wang have talked about them for years."

She said the board is "just trying to crystallize the points that have been talked about ad nauseam." And she said as the final hearing, on Sept. 22, approaches, "this is exactly the time to make sure all the t's are crossed and the i's dotted."

The Lighthouse project calls for a mixed-use development on 150 county-owned acres surrounding Nassau Coliseum.

Murray's letter calls for measures such as requiring renovation of Nassau Coliseum first to prevent the developer from selling his development rights or seeking tax breaks once the project is approved.

Wang said yesterday he was "disappointed and frustrated" by the town's latest move. In recent months he has accused the town of slowing the approval process.

Wang, the owner of the New York Islanders, has said if he doesn't have the go-ahead by Oct. 3 — the start of the hockey season — he will "explore all other options."

"After nearly eight years, Kate Murray has decided to unleash multiple demands to once again delay and jeopardize the Lighthouse project with only a few weeks before the October 3rd certainty date," he said. "This project, with all its benefits in this tough economic climate, constantly falls into political roadblocks."

Suozzi, who has said the lease is "99 percent complete" and ready to be presented to the Nassau County Legislature, said yesterday he hopes Murray's letter "doesn't chase the Islanders out of town."

The town's points

Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray's letter to Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi says the town board expects the following provisions to be specified in the lease between the county and Lighthouse developers before the town approves a zoning change. The provisions call for the following:

The coliseum:

- A new coliseum to be completed before other development
- The New York Islanders to play all home games at the coliseum for no less than 30 years after its completion

The developer cannot:

- Apply for tax breaks
- Leave any building in mid-construction
- Sell the developer's rights to, or change ownership of, the property without town consent

The developer must:

- Seek building permits from the town for any construction on the county-owned site
- Hire local residents for all construction jobs, pay prevailing wages and offer state-approved apprenticeships
- Make the town a third party beneficiary of the lease — a move that would give the town the right to sue for any breaches of the agreement.

"It's hard to imagine that with only 23 days until the hockey season begins, Supervisor Murray would bring up 10 new issues that could have been discussed at any time during the past three years," he said.

Lighthouse principals have said the development would create thousands of construction jobs and generate millions of dollars in tax revenue. Murray said yesterday she wants those measures in writing.

Her letter said the provisions are necessary to protect town residents "against the possibility of an Islanders departure after the real estate is rezoned," a move that would permit "a significant intensification of use."

It also said the town expects the county not to complete a lease until the town board reaches a consensus about the Lighthouse proposal after the Sept. 22 zoning hearing.

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