



City of Lafayette Police Department

Crime Bulletin

March 2017



Robbery Arrest

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing information about an incident that recently occurred in the city. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform residents about the incident and to obtain information that may assist us in our investigation.

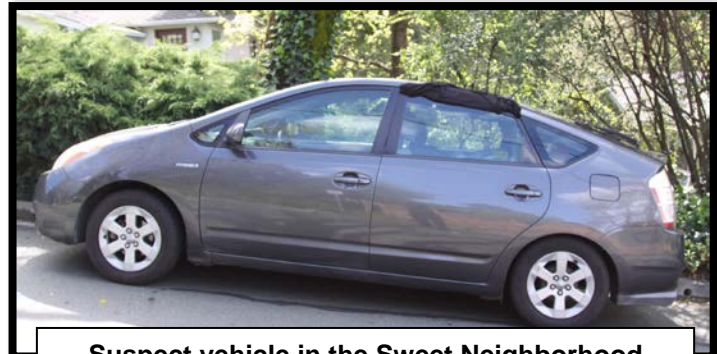
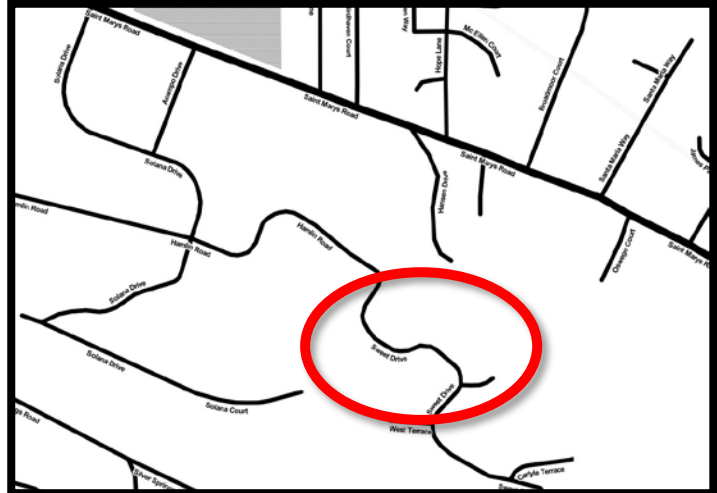
DR # 17-3627

On Tuesday, 3/21/17 at 1:55 p.m., LPD Officers were dispatched to the Chase Bank (34932 Mount Diablo Boulevard) for the report of a suspicious circumstance. The manager of the branch reported a customer had come into the bank and reported that he had been beaten up and forced to drive to the branch to withdraw money. As they responded, LPD Officers were updated that the suspect was seated in a vehicle in the parking lot and may be armed with a shotgun. An LPD Motor Officer arrived moments later and detained the subject who had been seated in a vehicle in the parking lot of the bank.

LPD Officers then interviewed the resident about the incident. Our resident told us that at approximately 1:30 p.m., he had heard a knock at his front door (3400 Block of Sweet Drive). He went to the window beside the door and saw a man dressed in a reflective vest and a hard hat. The man was carrying a bucket and had a crowbar and a torch in each of his hands. Believing him to be a service worker of some type, our resident unlocked and opened the door. As our resident opened the door, the construction worker forced the door open, knocking our resident to the ground. After knocking him to the ground, the pair struggled and the suspect was unable to restrain our resident - but the suspect did eventually gain control.

Our resident attempted to calm the suspect, who was asking questions about the location of money, jewelry, and weapons within the home. Our resident then walked through the various rooms of the home with the suspect, who looked in each room for valuables. The suspect found an unloaded shotgun within the home. The resident did not store ammunition with the shotgun, so the suspect only had access to an unloaded firearm. The suspect demanded cash and the resident explained the only money he had was in his wallet - providing the cash to the suspect. The suspect demanded that he be given more money. Our resident explained his money was at the bank and he would have to go to the bank to get it. The suspect then armed himself with a knife from the kitchen, threatening harm to the resident and his family if he did not take him to the bank to get more money.

The suspect then forced our resident to drive to the Chase Bank Branch in our victim's vehicle. The suspect sat behind our resident while they drove to the bank, still armed with the knife. Unbeknownst to our resident, the suspect had left the shotgun in the front yard of the home prior to them leaving. When they arrived at the bank, the suspect again threatened to harm our resident if he did not return to the car with additional money. After entering the bank, our resident reported the incident to bank staff who phoned police and kept our resident safe inside the branch.



Suspect vehicle in the Sweet Neighborhood



Robbery Arrest - 3/21/17

LPD Officers arrived shortly thereafter and detained the suspect. Our resident was slightly injured during the initial struggle with the suspect and was provided medical care for his injuries.

LPD Officers then responded to the Sweet Drive home to determine if there were additional suspect(s) at the home or involved in the crime. LPD Officers found no other suspect(s) in the home and the suspect's vehicle was located a short distance away. **LPD Officers are confident there was only one suspect involved in this incident.**

The suspect was then transported to LPD. He was then interviewed by our investigators, who worked to piece the events of the day together. LPD Investigators believe the suspect came to Lafayette with the specific intent to perform a daytime home invasion robbery. LPD Investigators believe the suspect had driven through the community on the day prior (Monday 3/20/17), looking for a residence where he could easily overpower the occupant in order to locate cash and valuables. LPD Investigators believe the suspect drove through the Sweet Drive Neighborhood and saw our resident in front of his home. The suspect then returned to the home to perform the robbery an hour later. LPD Investigators are confident this residence was selected by the suspect because of the age of the resident - believing him to be an "easy" target. There are no links between the suspect and our resident other than this incident.

The suspect was booked at the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF) for a variety of charges. He remains in-custody and our investigators will be meeting with representatives of the District Attorney's Office in the coming days to keep the suspect in custody.

Investigation. LPD Investigators are seeking assistance from all of our neighbors on this case, especially those in the neighborhood of Sweet Drive. Investigators believe this suspect may have attempted to gain entry into a number of homes in the Sweet Drive Neighborhood. Residents are asked to check their security camera systems for Monday and Tuesday to see if the vehicle drove by their home or if the suspect approached their door. **IT IS IMPERATIVE** that residents advise our investigators if this suspect came to their doors on either day, as this could lead to additional charges. So far, our investigators have been able to verify the suspect vehicle was in the Sweet Neighborhood at 11:46 a.m. from one of our Neighborhood Cameras. If you saw the vehicle in your neighborhood, we would also like to know that - please use our tip line at 94549tip@gmail.com and an officer will contact you.

Prevention. In this case, our resident did a lot of things very, very well. When there was a knock at the door, our resident checked to see who it was before just opening the door. Investigators are convinced the suspect intended a blitz-style of attack on someone he perceived he could overpower quickly. Believing it was a worker of some type, our resident unlocked and opened the door. It is a common ruse for criminals to disguise themselves with common construction clothing such as hard hats and reflective vests. It is so common, that we recommend you not open the door for a service worker that you have not requested. We ask that you give us a call and we will send an officer out to verify their identity and their reason for being at your home. Reflective vests and hard hats can be bought by anyone from a number of retailers. Once assaulted, our resident fought back, denying the suspect's attempts to restrain him. The resistance by the resident likely changed the suspect's plan of action, forcing him to take a different approach in accomplishing his crime. Although we commonly recommend that residents comply with offenders demands, in this case the resident felt compelled to fight back - which was an appropriate response in this situation. Our resident then talked to the suspect, calming him down and building rapport. Once our resident had reached a place of safety, he notified others and our offices were able to quickly apprehend the suspect. Not having a large amount of cash or valuables in the home, not having a loaded weapon, and our resident's ability to think quick on their feet all proved very beneficial. Residents are reminded to keep their doors and windows locked - even when they are at home.

E-Mail Alerts. If you are a resident of the City of Lafayette and are not currently receiving our email alerts, please contact Chief Christensen at echri@so.cccounty.us. Provide your name, street address and an email address. We want to make sure that all of our residents are aware of significant incidents and crime trends within our community.

Nixle Alerts. Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to our alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alerting System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about incidents such as this one. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website (www.nixle.com) - a free service for our residents.



The tools and disguise used by this suspect.

**LOCK YOUR
WINDOWS
AND DOORS**

Robbery Arrest - 3/21/17

Emergency	911
Dispatch (Non-Emergency)	(925) 284-5010
Police Department Office	(925) 283-3680
Tip Line	94549Tip@gmail.com
Email	
SGT Rossberg (Investigations)	TRoss@so.cccounty.us
Det Dennison (Investigations)	JDenn@so.cccounty.us
Det Ones (Investigations)	VOnes@so.cccounty.us



PLEASE call us if you see suspicious individuals or vehicles in your business or neighborhood.

Good Neighbor Program

We have expanded our Vacation Home Check Program. If you tell us when you are going to be gone from your home, we will do our best to have a member of our team check your home every day and send you a text or an e-mail to let you know we were there and that everything looks fine. We still want you to have that other good neighbor check on your house as well, but having an officer check your home is a good idea. If you are leaving for a trip, please just give us a call at the office to let us know when you are going to be gone and who will be watching the house while you are away. Even if you are already on vacation and forgot to call before you left, we'd love to check on the house to make sure everything is in order. It's a free service we provide to our residents. **Contact the office at (925) 283-3680.**



Citizen's Police Academy!

The next iteration of the Crime Prevention Commissions Citizen's Police Academy begins **Tuesday April 25th at 7 p.m.** Over the six weeks of the class, a couple dozen of our residents will get the experience of "Life on the Beat" in Lafayette. The course includes tours of the jail, the dispatch center, the coroner's office and a trip to our firing range. It's well worth the effort and open to those between 18 and 95. If you have not yet submitted an application, there is still time. Contact Crime Prevention Commissioner **Denise Brown** (cpccdenise@gmail.com) for an application and more information. Applications that describe the program are available on the police department's website.



Thinking About a Camera?

When it comes to improving the security of your own home or your neighborhood, there are few things that can beat the installation of a home camera system. Cameras today are reasonably priced, don't require a lot of work to install, and can easily be connected to your home Wi-Fi System. We have several camera models at the police department that you can come and borrow for a quick test-drive. We have several different makes and models that you can compare how they work before you buy. The image quality of these cameras is just amazing and can provide some excellent leads in helping us solve your case or the case of a neighbor. Give us a call to find out what cameras are available and to reserve the type you are the most interested in. Please contact the coordinator for this program, Cathy Surges-Moscato by email and she will give you some great advice and set you up with a loaner (CSurges@ci.lafayette.ca.us).

