



Bank Robbery

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing information about a crime that recently occurred within the City. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform residents about the incident and to obtain additional information to aid the police department in our investigation.

DR # 15-16535

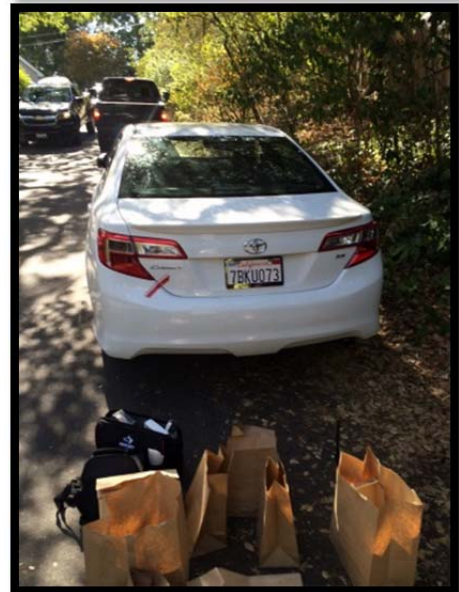
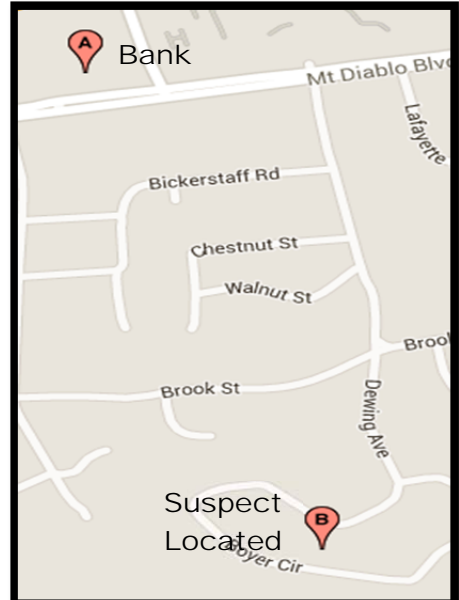
On 10/8/15 at 12:37 hours, Lafayette Officers were dispatched to a robbery that had just occurred at the Mechanics Bank (3640 Mt. Diablo Boulevard). A 911 caller reported the bank had been robbed, provided a description of the suspect, and a direction of travel for the suspect who fled on foot. The caller identified the suspect had a gun and had disappeared from view in the parking lot of the Trader Joe's (across the street from the bank).

Officers from throughout Lamorinda responded to the area to assist in locating the suspect, who had fled with money from the bank. Officers were then updated with information about a vehicle that had been located in the area of Boyer Circle (approximately 1 mile from the bank). Officers responded to the area and located an individual sitting in a vehicle parked on the street. The subject matched the physical description of the robbery suspect, but appeared to be wearing different clothing than those described by witnesses.

Officers made contact with the subject, asking him to step from his vehicle. As they did this, the subject began to reach for an unknown object in his waistband. Officers became involved in a physical struggle with the suspect, who continued to try to pull something from his waistband. During the struggle, the individual was able to remove a handgun from his waistband. The suspect was taken into custody and it was later determined the handgun was actually a pellet gun. The subject was detained and during a search of his vehicle, officers located the cash, the note that been shown, and the clothing he had worn during the robbery. The suspect was arrested and transported to the police department.

The employees of the bank later recounted that the suspect had come into the bank inquiring about opening an account. Once helped by an employee, the suspect produced a note demanding cash. The suspect accompanied the employee to the cash drawers, where he grabbed cash and then fled the business. None of the bank employees were physically injured during the robbery, but were shaken by the incident.

Our CSI personnel processed the bank and the suspect vehicle. Several items of evidence were collected at both locations linking this suspect to this crime. Investigators have interviewed the suspect and believe the suspect acted alone when he robbed the bank. The suspect was later transported to the jail and booked for robbery and several other charges. Several local law enforcement agencies have already contacted our investigators believing this suspect may be responsible for additional robberies in their jurisdictions.



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Our investigators are asking residents and businesses in the area to check their surveillance systems for images of the suspect and his vehicle as it fled the area of the bank. The crime occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. and the suspect was taken into custody at 12:46 p.m. The suspect is believed to have driven down Mountain View Drive to the location where he was contacted by officers (Boyer Circle). Residents who have any information about this incident, the suspect, or his vehicle, are asked to contact our investigators through our tip line at 94549tip@gmail.com or by calling our investigators at (925) 283-3680.



Investigation. Our investigators will now begin the process of piecing all the evidence together to show this is the subject who robbed the bank. Investigators will meet with the District Attorney in the upcoming days to have the subject held in custody to answer for this crime. Investigators are looking for additional information from the public regarding this case.

Prevention. In this case, the employees at the business did exactly what we want them to do. Assist the robber as they have asked, get them out of the business, and then lock the doors so they can't come back. Once they are safe, call 911 to report the crime and give as much information to officers as they can. The quick action of the staff members of the bank allowed officers to locate and apprehend the suspect - exactly what we all want. While not a contributing factor in this incident, the early hours of darkness increase the probability of robberies at our local businesses. Business owners are asked to review their robbery procedures with their employees to ensure that everyone knows what is expected of them. Employees should be encouraged to act the same as these employees did - give the robber what they want, get them out, lock the door and call 911. In the past, we've experienced robberies of businesses having less than a hundred dollars in the register - the size of a business does not matter. This business has an excellent surveillance system that will aid us in prosecuting the offender. Business owners are asked to make sure their systems would do the same in a similar incident at their business.

Business Security Survey. If you are interested in having a security survey done of your business, we have personnel who are trained and ready to help. We want to help you keep your valuables and home secure. Please contact us at the office at (925) 283-3680 or through our tip line at 94549tip@gmail.com to schedule a visit. Takes about 30 minutes and it's **FREE**.



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.

Emergency	911
Dispatch (Non-Emergency)	(925) 284-5010
Police Department Office	(925) 283-3680
Tip Line	94549Tip@gmail.com
Email	
SGT Shiells (Investigations)	HShie@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.