



City of Lafayette Police Department

# Crime Bulletin

February 2015

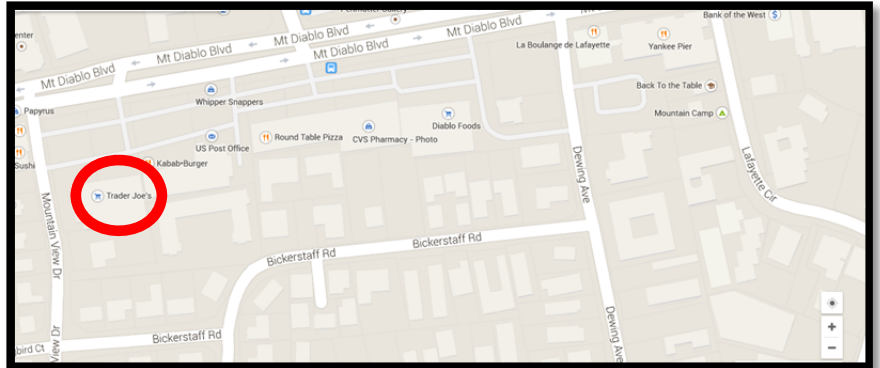


## Strong-arm Robbery

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing this 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.

On Saturday, 2/7/15, at 8:52 p.m. officers were advised that the Trader Joe's Store at 3649 Mount Diablo Boulevard had just been robbed. Officers responded and found the store had been robbed by three subjects who had fled on foot. During the robbery, no weapons were displayed and no one was injured.

Witnesses reported at approximately 8:50 p.m. three African-American Males approached the front of the store on foot. The males were all wearing dark colored clothing and were wearing "hoodie" style sweatshirts.



The first subject entered the store and immediately took up a position on the east-side of the front entrance. The second subject followed behind the first and took up a position to the west-side of the door. Both subjects had all of their body parts covered with clothing and were wearing clothing to hide the lower portions of their faces.

The third subject followed behind the other subjects and went directly to the manager's area of the store. The manager had the safe open and was counting the evening's receipts at the time. The third subject entered the manager's area and demanded the cash. The subject grabbed an empty bank bag and filled it with cash from the manager's desk and the safe. Once he had obtained the cash, the subject exited the manager's area and fled through the front door of the store. The two suspects who had positioned themselves near the entrance ran behind the subject who had obtained the cash.

The two subjects at the door prevented customers from entering and exiting the store during the robbery by issuing verbal commands, but did not display any weapons. They are not believed to have been armed during the robbery.

After exiting the store, one witness identified that the subjects ran east-bound down Mount Diablo Boulevard toward Dewing Avenue. The witness reported seeing the subjects turn at Dewing and then head south, into the neighborhood.

A perimeter was established following the robbery and a search for the subjects was done using a police canine. The canine lost the scent of the individuals at the intersection of Mountain View and Bickerstaff Drives (south of the store). It's believed the suspects may have actually fled the store traveling south on Mountain View Drive to an awaiting vehicle near the intersection of Bickerstaff Road. The suspects were not located during the search which involved officers from the Sheriff's Office and Lamorinda Agencies.

***Our investigators are requesting assistance from the community to help us solve this crime. We are looking for anyone who may have witnessed the crime at the store. We are looking for information from witnesses about where the suspects came from and where they fled following the crime. We are also looking for information from residents in the neighborhood behind the Trader Joe's about suspicious subjects or vehicles they may have seen during the time period of the robbery. Residents with surveillance cameras are asked to review their recordings from that day between 8 pm and 10 pm to identify any odd or suspicious vehicles. We are looking for any information that you believe may aid us in our investigation. Residents with information are asked to contact our investigators at the office by telephone (283-3680) or by e-mail at [94549Tip@gmail.com](mailto:94549Tip@gmail.com)***

" A Community Partnership "

# Strong-arm Robbery - 10 FEB 15

**Investigation.** Our investigators have little to work with so far as a part of this investigation. It's our hope that neighboring businesses and residents may be able to provide leads that will aid us in our investigation. It's likely that the suspects visited the business on a previous occasion - probably days earlier. It's also likely that the suspects were familiar with the procedures of the store, knowing when the safe would be open and when the manager would be busy closing the store.

**Prevention.** These types of events are rare in our community, but provide a reminder to business owners about the need to review emergency procedures with employees. Employees should know what they are expected to do during a robbery. Businesses should review their internal procedures to ensure that large quantities of cash are not on-hand at night. Receipts should not be counted in areas that can easily be accessed by non-employees. As in this case, employees should cooperate with the demands of the suspects - the money is not worth anyone being injured. Robberies are traumatic events for employees. By properly preparing employees, businesses can reduce the impact events such as this have upon their employees.

**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](mailto: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](http://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	<a href="mailto:94549Tip@gmail.com">94549Tip@gmail.com</a>
Email	
SGT Shiells (Investigations)	<a href="mailto:HShie@so.cccounty.us">HShie@so.cccounty.us</a>
Det Dennison (Investigations)	<a href="mailto:JDenn@so.cccounty.us">JDenn@so.cccounty.us</a>



**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.

