



## Burglary 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 # 17-16390

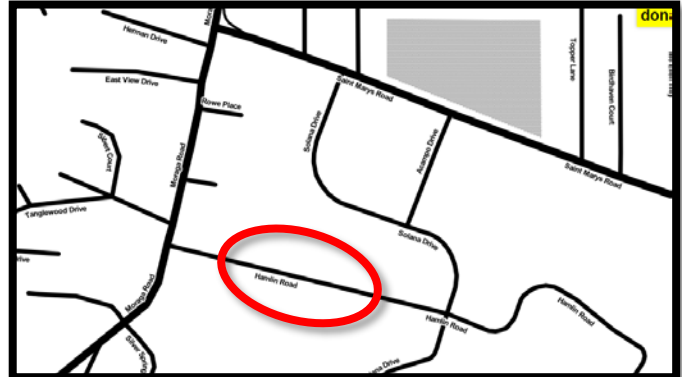
On Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 6:10 a.m. LPD Officers were dispatched to a home in the 3400 Block of Hamlin Road for the report of a residential burglary. Upon the arrival of officers, they found that sometime during the night unknown suspect(s) had entered the occupied home and removed items of personal property. LPD Officers searched the home for the suspect(s) and no one was found within the home. LPD Officers learned the two adults within the home had left their wallets and telephones in the office of the home when they went to sleep. When they readied themselves for work, they were unable to find their cell phones, nor their wallets. They then found the garage door to the home open. They also discovered funds from their bank account had been transferred while they slept.

LPD Investigators responded to the home and found the family's unlocked vehicle that was parked in the driveway had also been entered and searched by unknown suspect(s). LPD Investigators discovered a vehicle at a neighboring home had also been searched during the night and property removed from it. Further investigation revealed the garage door opener had been taken from the car parked in the driveway of the burglarized home. LPD Investigators surmised the unknown suspect(s) had entered the neighborhood to "root" (searching vehicles in a neighborhood for unlocked cars where property can be taken). While searching unlocked vehicles, the suspect(s) had likely found the garage door opener and activated it, opening the garage door. The suspect(s) then entered the garage and found the access door to the interior of the home unlocked. The suspect(s) then entered and searched the unlocked home, removing several items of property and jewelry - while the residents slept.

LPD Crime Scene Investigators (CSI) searched the home for physical evidence which was collected for analysis at the County Crime Lab.

LPD Investigators determined the on-line bank transaction occurred at 3:21 a.m. Investigators also learned that one of the credit cards removed from the home were used at a retail store in the City of Antioch. LPD Investigators visited the business and were able to obtain video images of the suspect and his vehicle. LPD Investigators then began to search for the license plate of the suspect vehicle as it left Lafayette on the morning of the crime.

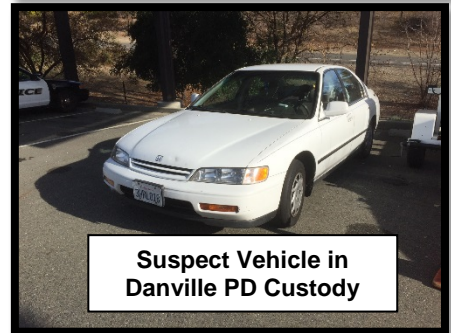
This morning (12/27/17 at 5:59 a.m.) Danville PD Officers were dispatched to the report of a residential burglary in progress in their City. While responding to the home, DPD Officers were advised the homeowner had fled the home with her children when she saw an unknown subject hide in her closet. DPD Officers responded to the home and located the suspect outside of the home with property that he had taken from within the home. Recognizing the similarities of the two crimes, LPD Investigators requested photos of the suspect and his



Suspect and Vehicle in Antioch Store



Suspect vehicle leaving Lafayette at 4:17 a.m. after the burglary.



Suspect Vehicle in Danville PD Custody

# Burglary Arrest - 12/27/17

vehicle from the DPD Officers at the scene. The photo of the suspect and his vehicle matched the images obtained from the retailer. LPD Investigators responded to Danville PD and interviewed the suspect. They were able to recover property from the suspect that belonged to the Lafayette resident. A search of the suspect's vehicle yielded additional property from the Lafayette Burglary. During their investigation, LPD Detectives had learned of similar burglaries in other surrounding communities. Investigators from those agencies were contacted and property from other burglaries was also recovered.



**Follow Lafayette PD on Facebook for up-to-date information about this and other incidents within our community.**

LPD Investigators have been able to confirm the suspect acted alone in perpetrating his crimes. The suspect entered neighborhoods to search unlocked cars for money and property that he could quickly sell. When he found a garage door opener in an unlocked car, he would either activate the opener or take the opener - with the intention of returning to burglarize the home. If the garage door would open, the suspect would enter the garage and the home - knowing that residents were likely inside the home. He freely moved about the inside the home taking property from rooms where the occupants slept just feet away. The suspect would then leave the home and sell the stolen property on an internet classified ad site.

**Investigation.** LPD Investigators are now working to recover the remainder of the property taken during the burglary and to build their case against the suspect. LPD Investigators are seeking information from neighbors in the Hamlin Road Neighborhood who may have seen the suspect vehicle or who may have captured an image of the suspect vehicle in the neighborhood on the morning of 12/20/17. The suspect was believed to be in the neighborhood between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. Neighbors with information are asked to contact LPD Investigators through our tip line at 94549Tip@gmail.com.

**Prevention.** There are few things that could be as scary as having a stranger inside your home while you are sleeping. This is the second time this year we have had crooks come into town to search unlocked cars for property and have found themselves going inside occupied homes. It's also not the first time that we have had garage door openers taken from unlocked cars at night and had the opener used to burglarize the home on a later day. Investigators found multiple garage door openers inside of the suspect's vehicle - likely for homes that he has burglarized and those that he intended to burglarize. **Safeguard your garage door opener** - If the garage door opener is left inside the vehicle, the vehicle should be inside the closed garage. A garage door opener in a car outside of the home is the same as leaving a set of housekeys in the car. It gives crooks easy access to the house - and you will not hear the garage door open while you are sleeping. **Always lock your car** - unlocked cars invite crooks into our neighborhoods. When they get the loose change or GPS device, they come back to victimize our neighbors. **Lock ALL exterior doors at night** - develop a habit of checking everything before you go to sleep at night. Our homes are designed with layers of security. The side garage door allows access to the garage. If the crooks get through that door, they can only get into the garage. The door from the garage into the house has to be locked as well. There is no one who has not accidentally left the garage door open overnight once in their life. Our officers wake a lot of people up at 2 a.m. to ask them to close their garage door to prevent becoming a victim of crime - 99% have no clue the door was open. **When you go to bed, set the alarm** - the reason we install alarms on our homes is to notify us when someone is trying to get in. There is no more important time to be alerted than when you are asleep inside the house. **If you think there is someone inside your home, get the kids and get out immediately.** Run to a neighbor's home and call the police - we'll all be on the way. There is no property inside the home that is worth risking our safety for. In this case, DPD Officers found the suspect to be armed with a stun gun and a pocket knife. While these were never displayed to the resident, it's a good guess he had these items with him to defend himself if confronted by a resident.

**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.

Police Department Tip Line:  
**94549TIP@GMAIL.COM**

**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	<b>94549Tip@gmail.com</b>
Email	
SGT Rossberg (Investigations)	TRoss@so.cccounty.us
Det Marshall (Investigations)	MMarshall@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.**

*" A Community Partnership "*