

**MEDIA RELEASE/COMMUNITY ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 22, 2019
Contact: Officer Michael Haobsh
PDpio@cityofsanmateo.org**



“Protect with Honor. Serve with Pride”

www.sanmateopolice.org

**** Press release update regarding attempt to identify on January 14, 2019. ****

SMPD arrests two suspects in violent robbery

San Mateo Police Department officers have identified and arrested two suspects in connection with a robbery that occurred near E Poplar Ave / N Ellsworth Ave in December.

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, at about 8 p.m., San Mateo police officers responded to a victim who reported he was robbed by two men near E Poplar Ave / N Ellsworth Ave. The suspects punched the victim several times in the face and stole his property.

Shortly before the robbery, Jose Rodriguez-Barraza and Mitchell Zaragoza were seen on surveillance inside a local store where the victim was shopping. They exited the store around the same time as the victim and committed the robbery shortly thereafter.

On January 14, 2019, San Mateo Police distributed a press release to our media partners and shared images of the suspects on our social media platforms. Within a few hours of the broadcast, Zaragoza turned himself in to police for committing the robbery. San Mateo Police continued working this case in search of the second suspect. Additional information led officers to positively identify Rodriguez-Barraza as the outstanding suspect.

On January 21, 2019, the San Mateo Police Department’s Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) spotted Rodriguez-Barraza in the 200 Block of N Amphlett Blvd - just a short walk from the original robbery location. Rodriguez-Barraza was quickly apprehended by CRU without incident and transported to San Mateo County Jail.

The San Mateo Police Department is grateful for the strong partnerships we have with the media, our active neighborhood watch program, and the engagement on our social media platforms. Together, we’re able to promote safety, solve crime, and deter criminal activity in San Mateo.

SMPD has a few robbery prevention tips to share with our community:

- ✓ Stay alert!
- ✓ Trust your instincts. If you sense danger, move away from it and call the police.
- ✓ Travel with others and walk in well-lit areas.
- ✓ Keep your valuables out of sight.

In the event of a robbery, SMPD has some helpful tips to share:

- ✓ Call 9-1-1 immediately and remain on the line.
- ✓ Don’t chase the robber. Leave this to the police.
- ✓ Don’t touch anything the robber may have touched.
- ✓ Write down a description of the robber and weapon as soon as you are able.
- ✓ If the robber had a car, write down the color, make, model, and license plate.

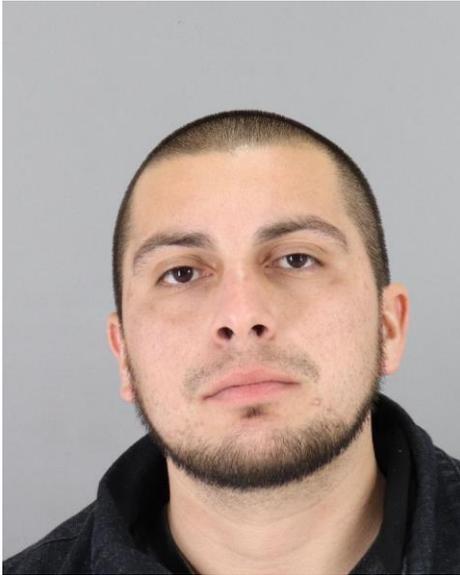
ARRESTED

Jose Rodriguez-Barraza 28-year-old from San Mateo

Booking Charge: Second degree robbery

Mitchell Zaragoza 30-year-old from San Mateo

Booking Charge: Second degree robbery



*Jose Rodriguez-Barraza
SMC Sheriff Mugshot 1/21/2019*



Surveillance Footage



*Mitchell Zaragoza
SMC Sheriff Mugshot 1/14/2019*



Surveillance Footage

MEDIA CONTACT

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Help SMPD identify two men of interest in a robbery case

The San Mateo Police Department is asking for your help with identifying two men of interest in a robbery that occurred in the area of E Poplar Ave / N Ellsworth Ave in December.

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, at about 8 p.m., officers responded to a victim who reported he was robbed by two men near E Poplar Ave / N Ellsworth Ave. The suspects punched the victim several times in the face and stole his property.

Shortly before the robbery, two persons of interest were seen on surveillance inside a local store where the victim was shopping. SMPD officers have been actively working this case and we are asking for our community’s help to identify the two men who may be associated with the robbery.

Person #1 (See Image Below):

- Male, possibly in his 30s, light skinned (possibly Caucasian and/or Hispanic)
- Wearing a black ear-flap beanie, black t-shirt, and black jacket

Person #2 (See Image Below):

- Male, possibly in his 30s, beard and/or goatee, light skinned (possibly Caucasian)
- Wearing a black 49ers hooded sweatshirt, white t-shirt, gray beanie, and jeans

CONTACT POLICE

Anyone with information on the identity of the two men pictured below are asked to contact Officer Phoenix O’Rourke at (650) 865-4283 or email at porourke@cityofsanmateo.org.

Anonymous tips can be submitted to <http://tinyurl.com/SMPDTips> or by calling (650) 522-7676.

IMAGES



Person of Interest #1



Person of Interest #2