



## SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ed Barberini  
Chief of Police

200 Franklin Pkwy  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
(650) 522-7710  
[www.sanmateopolice.org](http://www.sanmateopolice.org)

### **MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT**

**For Immediate Release No. 20200511-022**

**Monday May 11, 2020**

#### **Gang Associates Arrested After Evading Police in a Stolen Car**

*San Mateo police officers located and arrested two suspects after they failed to yield during a traffic stop. Officers learned the car had been an unreported stolen vehicle and discovered narcotics paraphernalia on the passenger.*

San Mateo, CA – On Sunday, May 10, 2020, at around 5:30 p.m., San Mateo Police Department's Crime Reduction Unit officers were patrolling the area of E Poplar Avenue / N Amphlett Blvd when they attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a red Honda for an equipment violation. The occupants of the vehicle evaded police to N Idaho Street / Thomas Court where the driver, Alexander Duenas, fled from the car on foot into nearby backyards, leaving his girlfriend inside the vehicle where officers discovered her to be in possession of narcotics paraphernalia. Officers set up a perimeter and located Duenas hiding after he shed some of his gang inscribed clothing. Duenas fought and resisted officers, however, was quickly taken into custody. The Honda was learned to be an unreported stolen vehicle out of Redwood City.

Due to COVID-19 jail restrictions, Duenas was released with a felony citation at San Mateo County Jail and Leanne Rodriguez was issued a misdemeanor citation on scene. The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office will be reviewing the case for additional charges.

Gang membership plagues this entire country, and San Mateo is not immune. Although our city doesn't experience the level of gang crimes as other cities, our officers regularly fight these crimes to keep San Mateo safe. A balance of prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies are important for success in any community. The San Mateo Police Department understands that children must be engaged to stay out of trouble. Our Police Activities League (PAL) hosts youth through programs such as juvenile diversion, police cadets, and a number of enrichment programs. Please visit [PAL's website](#) for additional program information and learn how you can partner with the San Mateo Police Activities League to keep children engaged and out of trouble.

**ARRESTED**

Alexander Duenas, 23-year-old San Mateo resident

Charges: Possession of a stolen vehicle (496(d)A PC) and resisting arrest (148(a)1 PC)

Leanne Rodriguez, 29-year-old San Mateo resident

Charges: possession of narcotic paraphernalia (11364 HS)

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Michael Haobsh

Public Information Officer

Community & Media Relations

Desk: (650) 522-7626

Email: [PDpio@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:PDpio@cityofsanmateo.org)

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