



SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ed Barberini

Chief of Police

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MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT

For Immediate Release No. 20250307-014

Friday, March 7, 2025

After Hiding from Police, Theft Suspect Arrested

A man stole from a local store, then ran from police before hiding under an overpass.

San Mateo, CA – On March 7, 2025, at 1:19 p.m., the San Mateo Police Department received a call from an employee at Walgreens, located on the 100 block of South Ellsworth Avenue about a suspect who just stole alcohol from the store. The employee provided officers with a description of the suspect and that the suspect was on a bicycle.

Officers were already in the area and quickly found the suspect. As officers told the suspect to stop, he failed to listen to commands and continued to flee. The suspect rode his bike eastbound toward Highway 101. An officer attempted to stop the suspect as he rode his bicycle, however the suspect again failed to stop and injured the officer. The suspect then got off his bicycle and ran under the 3rd Avenue overpass that crosses over Highway 101. Officers briefly lost sight of the suspect as he entered the creek that runs under the highway. A perimeter was setup around where the suspect was last seen. A drone was unitized to search the creek and found the suspect hiding on an embankment under the overpass.

Officers gave several commands to the suspect, later identified as Wilfran PerezGomez, to come out from under the overpass, and Perez failed to comply. After negotiating with the suspect for over an hour, officers used a non-lethal launcher to deploy pepper spray near Perez. The pepper spray was effective. Perez finally exited his hiding spot and was safely arrested by officers. Perez was transported and booked into the San Mateo County Jail.

We continue to need the community's support in reporting crimes and being a good witness. If you witness a crime, contact police immediately. Try to remain as calm as possible and do your best to answer questions on the phone. Remember details such as the suspect's appearance, clothing, any distinguishing features, and which direction they flee. Once the police arrive at the scene, cooperate fully, and provide the officers with all the information you have. Your observations can greatly assist law enforcement in their investigation.

ARRESTED

Wilfran PerezGomez, 19-year-old San Mateo resident.

San Mateo Police Media Relations • (650) 522-7626 • pdpio@cityofsanmateo.org
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CHARGES:

69(a) PC- Felony resisting a police officer, 148(a)(1) PC- Obstructing or resisting a police officer, 459.5(a) PC- Shoplifting.

MEDIA CONTACT

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