



SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ed Barberini
Chief of Police

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MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT

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Thursday, December 11, 2025

Arrest Made After Financial Dispute Leads to Criminal Threats and Weapon Brandishing

During a report of a subject brandishing a knife in an altercation over perceived owed money, officers established probable cause and arrested the suspect for criminal threats and brandishing a deadly weapon.

San Mateo, CA – On December 10, 2025, at 10:41 a.m., officers responded to the 300 block of Villa Terrace for a report of a person brandishing a knife during an altercation. Officers arrived and spoke with the victim, learning the dispute was among known parties regarding a perceived owed money dispute. During the confrontation, the suspect, identified as Emil Morales Garcia, allegedly brandished a knife toward the victim, and threatened to stab them. Morales Garcia then left the scene in his vehicle, prior to the arrival of officers.

Officers were able to locate Morales Garcia driving in the area of 3rd Ave and S. Ellsworth Ave. A traffic stop was initiated, Morales Garcia was detained, and through the course of the investigation, probable cause was established to arrest Morales Garcia for criminal threats and brandishing a deadly weapon not a firearm. During a consent search of Morales Garcia's vehicle, a black folding knife was located, collected for evidence, and was later identified by the victim as the alleged weapon used in the brandishing. Morales Garcia was transported to the San Mateo County Jail where he was booked for his charges.

Be responsible, take charge of your community's safety, and call San Mateo Police as soon as possible so that we can respond and help. Being a good witness means not placing yourself or others in danger. Remain calm enough to call the police and provide critical information. It's better not to confront or get involved in a conflict with the suspect. Be a good witness and call the police at 650-522-7700 or call/text 911 for emergencies.

ARRESTED

Emil Morales Garcia, 41-year-old Burlingame resident

CHARGES:

Morales Garcia-PC 422 (A)-Criminal Threats, PC 417 (A) (1)-Brandishing a Deadly Weapon Other Than a Firearm

MEDIA CONTACT

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