



# Milpitas Police Department

Dennis Graham  
Chief of Police

## PRESS RELEASE

### "Pigeon Drop" Scam

**Case:** 10-203-154  
**Date:** July 22, 2010, Thursday  
**Location #1:** 37 North Milpitas Blvd. (Chase Bank)  
**Location #1:** 1 S. Milpitas Blvd. (Wells Fargo Bank)  
**Victim:** 31-year-old male, Milpitas resident  
**Suspect #1:** Unidentified black male adult, 40-50 years old, 5'-9," 190 lbs., stocky, "salt-and-pepper" hair, mustache, short beard, last seen wearing a brown flannel shirt with a white pattern & slacks, spoke with an accent, and used the name of "Utta."  
**Suspect #2:** Unidentified Filipino or Pacific Islander male adult, late 40's to early 50's in age, 5'-9," 200 lbs., dark hair, brown eyes, last seen wearing a hat, a blue t-shirt, & blue jeans, and used the name of "Frank."

### Details:

On the afternoon of July 22, 2010, a Milpitas resident fell victim to a "pigeon drop" scam. The victim was walking through a shopping center parking lot on West Calaveras Blvd. when suspect #1 approached him. Suspect #1 claimed to have inherited a large sum of money and wanted to donate it to charity. He even showed the victim a letter supposedly documenting the inheritance, and he had the victim speak to someone on his cell phone pretending to be a lawyer to "verify" the inheritance.

Suspect #1 said he wanted to give two people \$100,000.00 each, however each person had to donate \$80,000.00 to charity and could keep \$20,000.00. Suspect #1 asked the victim to help him find a second person. Suspect #1 got into the victim's vehicle, and they traveled to a church on South Main Street where suspect #1 pointed out suspect #2.

The two suspects worked together to gain the victim's trust. Suspect #2 also got into the victim's vehicle, and they went to a bank on East Calaveras Blvd. Suspect #2 went into the bank and came out with a bag that supposedly contained a large amount of cash. The victim then drove to two banks in Milpitas and withdrew large amounts of cash from his accounts. The two suspects then left with the victim's money (\$15,000.00) and never returned.

The Milpitas Police Department would like to warn its residents about "pigeon drop" scams. If an offer seems too good to be true or requires you to provide "good faith" money in advance, it is probably not a legitimate transaction. Anyone with any information regarding this event or similar occurrences in parking lots of shopping centers, banks, or churches is encouraged to call the Milpitas Police Department at (408) 586-2400. Information can be given anonymously by calling (408) 586-2500, or via the Milpitas Police Department website at [http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/government/police/crime\\_tip.asp](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/government/police/crime_tip.asp)

By: Officer Gene Smith  
Date: 7-29-10, 7:00AM.