



Milpitas Police Department

Dennis Graham
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Theft Suspects Arrested

Date: July 11, 2012, Wednesday, 11:12 a.m.
Location: 100 (B) Lawton Dr., Milpitas
400 (B) S. Temple Dr., Milpitas
Case: 12-193-086
Suspect #1: George Varela Lopez, 55-year-old San Jose resident
Suspect #2: Melota Lemafa Lasi, Jr., 22-year-old San Jose resident
Suspect Vehicle: 1991 grey Ford F250 pickup truck

On 7/11/12 at approximately 11:12 a.m., an alert Milpitas resident telephoned Milpitas Police Department to report a suspicious grey pickup truck that drove in the area of Dolores Dr. and Mattos Dr. Milpitas Police Department officers and detectives quickly responded and arrived in the area within one minute of the original call.

Officers searched the area and located a vehicle that matched the description provided by the original caller. Detectives conducted surveillance on the vehicle and saw the passenger, Melota Lemafa Lasi, 22, of San Jose, take a car battery from the driveway of a home in the 100 (B) of Lawton Dr. The resident was contacted and said he had not given permission to Lasi to take the battery.

Detectives continued to follow the vehicle and saw the driver, George Varela Lopez, 55, of San Jose, stop and exit the vehicle in the 400 (B) of S. Temple Dr. Lopez entered a gated front yard and removed a water heater and copper pipe. Lasi and Lopez placed the water heater and copper pipe into the pickup truck and drove away. The resident of the S. Temple Dr. home also said permission was not given to Lopez or Lasi to remove the items from the yard.

The grey pickup truck and occupants were stopped in the area. Lopez was arrested and booked into the Santa Clara County Jail for suspicion of petty theft with prior convictions and prowling. Lasi was arrested and booked for suspicion of petty theft and prowling.

Anyone with any information regarding this investigation or other criminal activity occurring in Milpitas 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

By: Sergeant Kevin Corvin #201
Date: July 12, 2012 7:10 a.m.



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Suspect #1: George Varela Lopez



Suspect #2: Melota Lemafa Lasi