



SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

CR# 18-5403

DATE/TIME 09-12-2018 /
1300 hours

DISTRIBUTION

Orig.-report; All-Police, City Council, City Mgr.

LOCATION 700 block of El Camino Real, South San Francisco

TYPE OF INCIDENT Serial Armed Robbery Suspect Arrested

SUMMARY OF CRIME INCIDENT

Between June 2018 and September 2018, several businesses in San Mateo County to include, San Mateo, Daly City, San Bruno, Burlingame and South San Francisco were victimized by a serial armed robbery suspect who was targeting gas stations and businesses usually located in small strip malls. On at least ten different occasions, the suspect entered the respective businesses, brandished a handgun and demanded money from the clerks. The suspect then fled the scene of the robberies undetected. The armed robbery suspect was responsible for three armed robberies in South San Francisco alone. The suspect description in all of the robberies was the same, heavy set white male adult, brown or red beard, usually wearing a mask covering most of his face. The investigative units for several San Mateo County law enforcement agencies collaborated on the robbery cases, but no viable suspect information was yet developed.

On September 12, 2018 at approximately 1:00 PM, South San Francisco Police Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of El Camino Real on the report of an armed robbery of a local gas station. The lone suspect entered the business with a mask covering his face, brandished a firearm and demanded money from the clerk. The suspect fled the scene on foot. Officers quickly responded to the business and obtained a suspect description, which matched the suspect from the previous armed robberies. With a description of the suspect, South San Francisco Police Officers scoured the area and subsequently stopped and detained a subject matching the description a short distance away. The subject was positively identified as the armed robbery suspect by witnesses and positively identified as the suspect in the previous robberies by SSFPD Detectives. The suspect, later identified as Blake Townsend, a San Bruno resident, was found in possession of a black pellet gun, which looked identical to a real handgun. Further investigation and evidence positively linked Townsend to all of the armed robberies occurring in South San Francisco and the other victimized cities in San Mateo County. Townsend was later booked at the San Mateo County Jail in Redwood City for numerous counts of armed robbery and burglary.

Anyone who has any further information regarding Townsend or the armed robberies is encouraged to contact the South San Francisco Police Department at 650-877-8900 or the South San Francisco Anonymous TIP line at 650-952-2244. Anonymous tips can also be emailed to tips@ssf.net

ARREST INFO (OMIT NAMES OF JUVENILES) (cont. on reverse) []

NAME Blake Townsend NAME
CITY OF RESIDENCE San Bruno CITY OF RESIDENCE
OCCUPATION OCCUPATION
DATE OF BIRTH 10/02/1989 AGE 28 DATE OF BIRTH AGE
HT WT HAIR EYES HT WT HAIR EYES

BOOKING STATUS Booked San Mateo County Jail
(bail amount, where held, etc.)

BOOKING STATUS _____
(bail amount, where held, etc.)

CHARGES	<u>212.5(c) PC, 460(b) PC, 417.4 PC</u>	CHARGES	_____
	(warrants, holds, penal code)		(warrants, holds, penal code)

ACCIDENT AND/OR VICTIM INFO (UNLESS CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTED)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ AGE _____

INJURIES _____ WHERE TAKEN _____ OCCUPATION _____

SGT'S APPROVAL 98ws10 WC APPROVAL 98sc01 AUTHOR 98ws10 RELEASED TO: _____