



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: August 5, 2014

LOCATION: 1500 block of Laurent St

TOPIC: Robbery and Hit & Run Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 14S-06329

The Santa Cruz Police Department announces the arrest of four suspects in connection with a Robbery and Hit & Run that occurred early Saturday morning (August 2, 2014) in the 1500 block of Laurent Street.

The arrested suspects are:

Kyla Bell-Bernard – 18 years old, Freedom resident

Cassie McCabe – 18 years old, Soquel resident

Esabella Gentile-Montgomery – 19 years old (today), Santa Cruz resident

Riley Cameron – 18 years old, Santa Cruz resident

Around midnight on Saturday morning August 2, 2014, Santa Cruz Police were called to a noise disturbance in the 1500 block of Laurent Street. A group of young adults in their late teens had gathered on the street and were creating a disturbance. The group left an earlier party in Aptos and came to Santa Cruz looking for another party.

The group of young adults was confronted by a neighbor who began to take photos of them with a cell phone. The group took exception to this, and a physical altercation erupted. Members of the group assaulted the victim and took her cell phone. At one point they tried to smash the phone. The victim was able to retrieve her phone and continue to take photos of the crowd.

Our suspects were traveling in a car together and had their photo taken by the victim. The suspects hatched a plan to return to the street and take the victim's phone out of fear the photos would be posted on a social media site. The suspects drove back and lured the victim to their car. One of the suspects reached out and grabbed the victim's phone pulling it and the victim's arm into the car. The victim fell to the ground and the driver accelerated away. The victim's hand was run over by the car, resulting in a compound fracture. The suspects fled with the victim's phone and it is believed they discarded it into the ocean.

Detectives worked the case through the weekend and developed leads that eventually led them to the suspects. Detectives determined that suspect Kyla Bell-Bernard was the driver, although the car belonged to the family of Cassie McCabe. Suspects Esabella Gentile-Montgomery and Riley Cameron all had an active role in the conspiracy to return and take the victim's cell phone, as well as the eventual destruction of the phone.

Each of the suspects was arrested for Robbery and Conspiracy. The driver, Kyla Bell-Bernard was also arrested for one count of Felony Hit & Run. The suspects were arrested Monday August 4th. The victim is a 57 year old Santa Cruz resident. She is recovering from her injuries.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

Phone: (831) 420-5815

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

Kyla Bell-Bernard



Cassie McCabe



Esabella Gentile-Montgomery



Riley Cameron

