



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

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: February 15, 2017

**LOCATION: 2000 block of Soquel Avenue
& 300 block of Ocean Street**

TOPIC: Arrest in Robbery Investigations

CASE NUMBER: 17S-01138 & 17S-01143

INFORMATION:

On Tuesday, February 14, 2017, around noon Santa Cruz Police officers arrested Antonio Neal Townsend, 22 years old, from Santa Cruz for attempted robbery, robbery, and an outstanding felony warrant. Townsend's arrest came following an attempted robbery and completed robbery at two local businesses.

At 10:27 a.m., Officers responded to a local market store on the 2000 block of Soquel Avenue on the report of an attempted robbery that had just occurred.

At about 1140 hours, SCPD responded to a convenience store on 300 blocks of Ocean Street for a report of a theft that just occurred. The suspect, a Hispanic male claimed to have a gun, ran from the store with an undisclosed amount of money.

At both locations, the suspect Antonio Townsend is believed to have entered the business at which time he passed a note to the cashier claiming he was in possession of a gun.

Several SCPD officers, detectives, and a Scotts Valley canine searched the area and located Antonio Townsend. The stolen property and firearm remain undiscovered after a search. Townsend later confessed in an interview with detectives that he faked having a gun during the robberies.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

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.

Photo - Antonio Neal Townsend, 22 years old, from Santa Cruz

