



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: March 25, 2021 **LOCATION:** 700 Block of Ocean
TOPIC: Armed Robbery Series Arrest **CASE NUMBER:** 21S-01571
21S-01572
21S-01573

INVOLVED SUBJECT(S)

VICTIM(S): Three (3) businesses located in the 2200 block of Mission St., 1300 block of Ocean St. and 300 block of Soquel Ave.

SUSPECT(S):

Name: Manuel Alejandro Montoya **D.O.B.:** 06/09/1999 **Arrest:** Yes

Charges: 211 PC-Robbery (3) counts, 182(a)(1) PC-Conspiracy

Name: Leilani Marie Allen **D.O.B.:** 11/08/1992 **Arrest:** Yes

Charges: 211 PC-Robbery (3) counts, 182(a)(1) PC-Conspiracy, 32 PC-Accessory

INFORMATION

On Wednesday, March 17, 2021 shortly after 10:00 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Department Officers were dispatched to a report of an armed robbery in-progress at the Domino's Pizza the 2200 block of Mission St. Officers responded to the scene and determined the suspect had fled the scene and committed the robbery by way of displaying a semi-automatic pistol at the store clerk.

Approximately 20 minutes later a second in-progress armed robbery was reported at the Valero gas station located in the 1300 block of Ocean St. Officers responded and discovered the suspect matched the description of the earlier robbery.

About 10 minutes later a third in-progress armed robbery was reported at Lloyd's Liquors located in the 300 block of Soquel Ave. Officers quickly learned all three robberies appeared to be connected.

There was a fourth in-progress armed robbery that occurred preceding the three aforementioned cases, however that case is still under investigation.

Santa Cruz Police Department Detectives followed up on several leads and sifted through endless hours of video footage. As a result, detectives were able to identify the suspect as 21 year-old Manuel Alejandro Montoya, a resident of Santa Cruz County. On Thursday, March 25, 2021, an arrest warrant was issued for Montoya's arrest in connection with the series of robberies.

For additional information, contact: Lieutenant Arnold Vasquez Phone: (831) 420-5856

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website: www.santacruzpolice.com.



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On Thursday, March 25, 2021 at approximately 4:30 p.m. detectives spotted Montoya as a passenger of a vehicle which was traveling southbound in the 700 block of Ocean St. Santa Cruz Department patrol officers quickly converged on the scene and were able to safely apprehend Montoya. Montoya was booked into Santa Cruz County Jail on the warrant issued for multiple counts of 211 PC-Robbery and 182(a)(1) PC-Conspiracy.

During Montoya's arrest, a female subject was detained and identified as 28 year-old Leilani Marie Allen, a resident of Santa Cruz County. Through the course of the investigation, Allen was determined to have driven Montoya to the location of each of the robberies and acted as the get-away driver following the commission of the robberies. Allen was arrested and booked into Santa Cruz County Jail for multiple counts of 211 PC-Robbery, 182(a)(1) PC-Conspiracy and 32 PC-Accessory.

The Santa Cruz Police Department would like to thank the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and the Modesto Police Department who helped solve this case and take two violent criminals off the street.

The Santa Cruz Police Department is asking anyone with information about this case to contact Santa Cruz Police Department Detective Taylor Trueblood at (831) 420-5837.

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MANUEL ALEJANDRO MONTOYA

DOB: 06/09/1999

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Dominos Pizza

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Valero Gas Station

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Lloyd's Liquors

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LEILANI MARIE ALLEN

DOB: 11/08/1992

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