



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

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**DATE: November 2, 2021**

**LOCATION: Beach at Main Street**

**TOPIC: Suspect Arrested For Hate Crime Assault**

**CASE NUMBER: 21S-06702**

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**INFORMATION:**

On November 2, 2021, at 3:45 am, Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) received a report of a stabbing that had just occurred in the area of Beach and Main Street. Officers responded immediately and located two male victims from the attack, one who had sustained a stab wound to their leg. SCPD Officers rendered medical aid until Santa Cruz Fire and Paramedics arrived and took over care.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the two victims were walking in the 100 block of Main St when they were confronted by a male suspect calling the two victims homophobic epithets and brandishing two knives.

The victims attempted to deescalate the threat posed by the unknown aggressor peacefully; however, the suspect attacked without provocation. The suspect then fled on foot. The attack led to one of the victims being stabbed in the leg. The injured victim was transported to a trauma center for a significant but non-life-threatening stab wound.

Officers quickly established a perimeter and immediately began a search for the suspect. In short order, patrolling officers located and detained the suspect, Anthony Williams, a 39-year-old Watsonville resident, several blocks away from the scene.

In addition to physical evidence recovered, Mr. Williams was positively identified as the suspect in this attack. Anthony Williams was arrested and booked into county jail on charges of assault with a deadly weapon (stabbing), violation of one's civil rights (hate crime) —willfully threatening a person based on their perceived characteristics. PC 422.6(a) is considered a hate crime. And possession of a concealed dagger (knife). Mr. William's booking photo is attached to this release.

Due to the severity of the crime, SCPD Investigators were called in to assist with providing victim services and investigative case follow-up. Detectives believe the motive for the attack

was the perceived sexual orientation of the victims, for which the additional charge of a hate crime along with a \$200,000 bail increase.

In the wake of recent events and increased attention on hate crimes, the Santa Cruz Police Department continues to show our commitment to thoroughly investigate any reported hate crimes in the City of Santa Cruz. A hate crime is against a person, group, or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived protected social group (see [Information Bulletin on Hate Crime Laws](#)).

Santa Cruz Police Department strongly denounces hate crimes of all kinds and encourages members of our community to promptly report these incidents by calling our 24-hour dispatch center at (831)471-1131, or [9-1-1](#) if it is an emergency.

Booking Photo Anthony Williams



Charges: 245 PC Assault W/ Deadly Weapon (Stabbing)  
422.6 PC Violation of Civil Rights (Hate Crime)  
21310 PC Carrying concealed dagger (knife)

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