



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Armed Robbery

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Esplanade and Panama Ave, Chico

DATE/TIME OCCURRED: 11/29/15 / 1800 hours

INCIDENT CASE NUMBER: 15-8297

VICTIM: Justin Martinez (30 years old), Chico resident

SUSPECT: Eric L. Gaines

NARRATIVE:

On 11/29/15 at approximately 1800 hours, the Chico Police Department dispatch center received a call of a possible armed robbery that had just occurred in the area of Panama Ave and the Esplanade. The reporting party stated the victim was bleeding from a laceration to his head. The suspect was last seen riding away on a bicycle eastbound on Panama Ave.

Officers were able to locate the victim in the 2600 block of the Esplanade. He advised the suspect approached him and attempted to take his backpack. The suspect then pulled a semi-automatic handgun from his pocket and began striking the victim in the head with the gun. The suspect demanded the victim's money, and after getting the money, fled on his bicycle. The victim was able to provide a detailed description of the suspect and officers began an area check for him. While officers were conducting the area check, the suspect was seen on the Fairview High campus. The suspect rode off the campus, traveling westbound on East Ave. The officer attempted to stop the suspect as he continued westbound, turning into the parking lot of AM/PM Mini Mart, located at East Ave and the Esplanade. Other officers had arrived in the area and were able to contact and arrest the suspect without incident. The suspect was identified as Eric L. Gaines and was booked for armed robbery.

The victim, Justin Martinez, was not seriously injured and was released from the scene after receiving medical treatment.

Supervisor: Scott Ruppel

Watch Commander: Lt. Matt Madden

Prepared By: Sgt. Scott Ruppel

Date/Time: 11/29/15 / 2030 hrs.