



PALOS VERDES ESTATES POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE



HOME INVASION ROBBERY SUSPECT ARRESTED

On Monday, June 15, 2020 at approximately 06:03 am, PVEPD received a call regarding an attempted carjacking of a taxi cab in the 1300 block of Granvia Altamira. Upon officers arrival, they spoke with the taxi driver who told them the suspect left the area on foot. A short time later, a PVEPD detective driving an unmarked police vehicle noticed a person matching the description driving a Lexus SUV on Via Zurita and the detective followed the vehicle to investigate further.

At about that time, another resident in the 2400 block of Via Sonoma called PVEPD to report he had just been the victim of a home invasion robbery. During this robbery the suspect used a large knife from the victim's kitchen and held the victim at knife point. The suspect demanded the victim's keys to his Lexus SUV. The suspect also took cash and a cordless drill from the victim then fled in the victim's SUV. The victim was not physically harmed.

PVEPD detectives and patrol officers conducted a traffic stop on the Lexus and took the suspect into custody without incident. The large knife, cash and cordless drill were also recovered from inside the vehicle. The suspect was identified as Eric Merli, 34 years of age. He was booked on suspicion of home invasion robbery and carjacking. The case was presented to the LA County District Attorney's Office and they filed two counts of robbery and one count of carjacking.

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