



PRESS RELEASE

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Company Name: Pleasanton Police Department
Address: 4833 Bernal Avenue
Contact: Watch Commander
Prepared By: Scott Rohovit, Police Lieutenant
Incident Number: 15-13224
Phone: (925) 931-5100
Fax: (925) 931-5480
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Theft

On 04-08-2015 at 0240 hrs. Officers were in the parking lot of the Pleasanton Gateway Shopping Center when they observed a male subject later identified as Demarko Patton running from the north exit of Safeway. Patton was carrying two plastic shopping baskets filled with items and was actively being pursued by a Safeway employee.

Patton got into the front passenger seat of an awaiting vehicle in the parking lot. The vehicle exited the parking lot at a high rate of speed and drove through a red light, onto Bernal Ave. Believing that a crime had just occurred at Safeway and having on viewed a variety of vehicle code violations, the officers followed the vehicle. While entering northbound I-680 freeway the driver failed to yield to the officer's lights and siren and accelerated to speeds up to 100mph in an effort to evade the officers.

The vehicle then exited the freeway at Stoneridge Drive, where the driver lost control of the vehicle and it came to a stop. Patton and the driver, identified as Deja Martin exited the vehicle and ran toward Val Vista Park on Johnson Drive. Responding officers set up a perimeter and used a Police K-9 to locate the suspects who were hiding in bushes within 500 feet of the vehicle.

Further investigation revealed that a Safeway employee witnessed Patton stealing 18 containers of Enfamil baby formula from Safeway. The employee directed Patton to stop as he witnessed the theft and pursued Patton when he failed to comply. The Enfamil was located inside the vehicle along with two Safeway baskets. An additional 42 containers of various brands of baby formula were also located in the trunk of the Martin's vehicle.

Due to its high value, powdered baby formula is often stolen in large quantities and resold at a reduced cost on the street. It is also used as a cutting agent to increase the volume of illegal narcotics.

The following charges are being sought against Patton and Martin:

Demarko Patten 21 – Oakland

- Shoplifting 459.5 PC,
- Conspiracy to commit a crime 182 (a)(1) PC,
- Obstruction of justice 148 (a)(1) PC,
- Committing a crime while out on bail 12022.1 PC,
- Probation Violation 1203.2 PC
- and Violating a court order 166 (a)(4) PC

Deja Shanae Martin 27 – San Leandro

- Evading a police officer 2800.2 CVC,
- Conspiracy to commit a crime 182 (a)(1) PC,
- Obstruction of justice 148 (a)(1) PC