

Police asking for help in locating 2 robbery suspects

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
Monday, 28 July 2014 13:32



Sulphur Springs Police Department is seeking the public's help in identifying and locating two men who reportedly robbed an E-Z Mart Sunday night.

Two men, including one who displayed a gun, entered the E-Z Mart on Helm Lane at East Shannon Road at 10:38 p.m. Sunday. One of the suspects jumped the counter and removed money from the cash drawer, which contained an estimated \$35 to \$40. The pair then left headed south on Helm Lane; they were thought to be in a car. The cash drawer was found a short while later on Marianne Circle at Live Oak Street, where police believe it fell after one of the suspects threw it out the window while driving down the road.

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The clerk was not injured in the robbery, according to SSPD Capt. Jay Sanders, who has been appointed by city officials to replace Jim Bayuk as chief later this month.

Police weren't able to locate the two men, but were able to pull store video and are distributing photos of the two suspects, asking for the public's help in identifying or locating the pair involved in the aggravated robbery. Anyone with information about the suspects or robbery are asked to contact Lt. Rusty Stillwagner at SSPD at 903-885-7602 or to call tips into Crime Stoppers at 903-885-2020. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of the suspects.



With Crime Stoppers the calls can be completely anonymous, just dial 903-885-2020, and give your information. Calls are handled in such a way the caller's identity is kept confidential, but the caller can collect the reward if the tip pays off, Stillwagner noted.

The two suspects are described as black males, "younger guys." One was wearing a navy shirt and black shorts, "big earring in his left ear" and appeared to have some facial hair. The other was wearing a black shirt, black or dark colored pants and kept his mouth partially covered. One of the men had what are described as "sleeves" tattoos, that is tattoos that cover most of their lower arm. The clerk said the weapon appeared to be a .40-caliber Glock or similar type weapon, although officials weren't able to tell for certain from the video, according to Sanders.

He said while these type of cases aren't common, and city police haven't had one in a while, they have in the past had experience with them. And, it's not uncommon when one occurs for there to be more. As a precaution, Special Crimes Unit investigators will be asked to devise and put in place a plan to guard against subsequent robberies and in case there are any copycats, Sanders said.



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Police also caution people to call their authorities immediately if they believe they see the pair as they are considered dangerous.

Sanders advised if anyone should ever find themselves in a store when a robbery is occurring, the individual should “hit the floor until it’s all over. Don’t try to be a hero. Your life comes first.”