

**Subject: EPD requests the public's assistance with assault suspect identification.**

**Contact:** Detective Sergeant Patrick O'Neill

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On 2-7-2011, a planned protest took place at the Cal Trans Building at 1656 Union Street in Eureka. A large group of protesters held this protest on the front lawn, front sidewalk, and interior lobby of the building. This protest went on for several hours and at one point six subjects "locked themselves down" to each other, by means of securing their arms in large metal sleeves and then one subject secured his neck to the handrail of the lobby.

At just passed 5:00 pm, both management of Cal Trans and Eureka Police Chief Nielsen made an announcement that the business was closed and the persons on scene would need to vacate the lobby. Many protesters refused to comply.

Due to the protesters refusal to vacate, Officers of the Eureka Police Department and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) started moving from the lobby towards the exterior lobby door, in an attempt to peacefully move the subjects out of the (now closed) business. Many of the subjects were removed from the lobby this way, however numerous remained in place, despite face-to-face instruction by uniformed officers to leave.

Several subjects were arrested before the lobby was cleared of all unauthorized persons (apart from those who had elected to "Lock themselves down"). Uniformed Officers tried to clear the protesters from the business' outward opening exit doorway, so the business could be secured. While this was taking place, two of the CHP personnel had coffee thrown in their face by a subject. Moments later one of the protesters standing outside the building threw something the size of a 16-ounce beverage bottle into the building, narrowly missing several officer's heads. With some difficulty, Officers were able to force the subjects back far enough to close the doors. The item thrown was later determined to be a large heavy high impact plastic coffee mug.

Since none of the officers involved in the securing of the lobby were wearing helmets or any other protective gear that would have protected their head or face from impact from this mug, compiled with the material used in the construction of the coffee mug and the velocity that the mug was thrown, the end result most likely would have been great bodily injury to any person the item struck directly in the face.

Upon reviewing numerous surveillance angles of the incident from numerous sources, the subject who threw the coffee in the CHP Officer's faces and also who threw the mug at officers was determined to be the same person. EPD is requesting assistance in identifying the subject for the purpose of referring the incident to the District Attorney's office for assault charging.

This is an ongoing investigation and anyone with information regarding the identity of the subject is urged to contact Det. Sgt. O'Neill at 707-268-5261.

