

**Press
Release****The City of Palo Alto**
Public Information Office250 Hamilton Ave
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #01/03/2009

Subject : Six Arrested in Strong Arm Robbery**Contact :** Agent Rich Bullerjahn, Police Department 650-329-2413

Palo Alto, CA - On January 2, 2009, at approximately 8:20 p.m., a juvenile victim called 911 to report that he was just robbed while riding his skateboard in the 200 block of Everett Avenue. The victim stated that a Pacific Islander male had physically knocked him off his skateboard from behind and took his Ipod Touch from his pocket before fleeing on foot. The victim believed the suspect was associated with a red van.

Minutes later, Officer David Pecoraro spotted a van matching the description given by the victim and six males were detained in the 100 block of Palo Alto Avenue without incident. The victim positively identified the suspect at the scene of the stop. All six males were then detained. After further investigation by Palo Alto Police detectives, all six males were arrested on charges of robbery or conspiracy to commit robbery.

Three of the suspects were adult males identified as Fataituulilo Vailala, 20 years old from East Palo Alto, Vaughn Smith, 18 years old from Menlo Park, and Malakai Mataere, 18 years old from East Palo Alto. All three adults were booked at the Santa Clara County Jail on charges of robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. The remaining three suspects were juveniles from East Palo Alto, Newark and Oakland. Two juveniles were cited and released to parents while a third was booked into Juvenile Hall in San Jose.

The juvenile victim did not receive any injuries as a result of the crime and all of the stolen property was recovered.

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