



# Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

**Chris Dewey**  
Chief of Police

**December 29, 2012**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Suspect:** Eric Mario Patino, Age 21, of Willits

**Crimes:** Robbery

- Brandishing a Weapon
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon
- Terrorist Threats
- Transportation of Methamphetamine
- Violation of Probation
- Conspiracy to Commit Crime

\*all felonies, in-custody Mendocino County Jail, held without bail.

On Wednesday, 12/26/12, at about 6:30 p.m., UPD received reports of two armed robberies that had just occurred within minutes of each other under similar circumstances. The first incident occurred on Mason Street near the intersection of Norton Street. A 19 year old male from Ukiah was riding his skateboard home on Mason Street when a white vehicle stopped near him and the suspect exited the vehicle, approached him and demanded everything he possessed. The suspect then produced a semiautomatic handgun and pointed it at the victim. The suspect then placed the barrel of the handgun against the victim's chest while continuing to demand items from him. The victim got to his knees and gave the suspect his backpack, skateboard and cell phone. When the victim tried to get up another suspect exited the vehicle and pointed a handgun at the victim and threatened to shoot him if he got up. The suspect took the victim's property and fled in the vehicle.

On 12/26/12, approximately 5 minutes after the above robbery, UPD received a report of another similar robbery in the area of N.Bush Street and Empire Drive. The victim, a 26 year old female from Ukiah, was walking on N.Bush Street when a white vehicle drove past her several times. The vehicle stopped and the suspect exited the vehicle and approached her holding a semi-automatic handgun and demanded she give him everything she had. The suspect attempted to take the purse that was strapped to her shoulder and when the victim tried to hold on to it the suspect threatened to shoot her. The suspect then struck her in the back of the head with the handgun and took the purse which



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contained her money, wallet and other personal belongings. The suspect then ran back to the waiting vehicle and fled the area.

UPD Detectives began to immediately work these two cases and were able to preliminarily identify the primary suspect as Eric Mario Patino, age 21 from Willits, a known Sureno Gang Member. Information was shared with the Willits Police Department and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the Willits Police Department stopped Patino at about 7:30 p.m. on 12/27/12 in Willits driving a white Mazda sedan. He was arrested and stolen property from the two Ukiah robberies as well as a replica semi-automatic handgun were found in his possession. He also possessed methamphetamine as was additionally charged with transportation of a controlled substance. Further investigation determined that Patino was responsible for another robbery on Highway 101 north of Willits at about 3:30 p.m., on 12/26/12 and it is suspected that other suspects were involved with him in all three of these robberies.

UPD Detectives, the Willits Police Department and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department are continuing their work on these cases to identify any other suspects who assisted Patino in these robberies. Anybody with information is asked to call the Ukiah Police Department at 707-463-6262.

By: Captain Trent Taylor