



**SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH**

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**For Immediate Release- Media**

**Office of the Sheriff**

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**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** FBI Felony Warrant Arrest; Tampering with Consumer Food Products

**LOCATION:** E. El Camino Real and Maria Lane, Sunnyvale CA

**CASE NUMBER:** 19-037-0139T

**DETAILS:**

On February 6, 2019 at approximately 8:47 AM, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the area of E. El Camino Real and Maria Lane in Sunnyvale for a report of a male spreading white powder and hydrogen peroxide aboard a Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) bus. The male was later identified as 48-year old David Lohr.

The bus operator Juan Balleza immediately had passengers de-board the bus until deputies arrived. Lohr de-boarded the bus and walked away from the scene. VTA communications sent out a description of Lohr to all of their bus drivers and train operators.

At approximately 9:55 AM, VTA bus operator Michael Grenz alerted deputies that a person matching the suspect description was sitting at a bus stop near E. El Camino Real and San Antonio Road in Los Altos. Deputies immediately responded to the location, found Lohr and determined he had a felony no-bail warrant out of the FBI-Los Angeles Office for Tampering with and Attempting to Tamper with Consumer Products (18 USC 1365A). Deputies located salt and several receipts in Lohr's pockets and conducted follow-up investigations at nearby Safeway stores.

During their investigation, deputies spoke with grocery store employees, who discovered an empty hydrogen peroxide container and hydrogen spilled in the heated tray of the rotisserie chickens on January 26, 2019 at a grocery store. In addition to the hydrogen peroxide, detectives located video surveillance of Lohr pouring bleach on cartons of eggs in the same local store. Bleach contains hazardous material that can cause serious eye irritation; skin irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Safeway's management has been extremely helpful in the investigation. Further investigation is being conducted with the grocery store to determine whether any chickens and or eggs were sold to the public.

Sheriff's Office K-9 unit and Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety Fire personnel later determined that the substance on the bus was salt and hydrogen peroxide and not hazardous to the public.

Sheriff's Office has notified and is working closely with the Department of Environmental Health ensure the safety of the public.

**Prepared By: Deputy Michael Low**  
**Approved By: U/S Rick Sung**

**Date / Time Prepared: 2/11/19 @1115**  
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“The quick response and thorough investigation by our deputies prompted by vigilant and observant VTA bus drivers led to the apprehension of this suspect, whose actions had the potential to adversely affect the public’s health and safety. Our Deputies take pride in their work in keeping the public safe.” said Sheriff Laurie Smith. “We’d also like to thank Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety for their assistance for expeditiously clearing and determining the substance on the bus wasn’t hazardous to the public.”

Lohr was transported and booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail on the felony warrant and new charges for food tampering are pending. Lohr appeared in federal court on February 8, 2019 and remains in federal custody. Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office at (408) 808-4500. Alternatively, you can contact the Sheriff’s Office Investigative Services anonymous tip line at (408) 808-4431.



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