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Sheriff Laurie Smith

PRESS – MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Case # 06-052-0165B
February 23, 2006

Child Kidnapper Caught

On February 21 at 1046 am, suspect Jose Barrales kidnapped an 8-year-old boy from the Bank of America at Camden Plaza, located at 14396 Union Avenue in unincorporated San Jose. Barrales was wearing a Hawaiian shirt and carrying two ukuleles. As the victim was playing with a toy, Barrales came up from behind and put his arm around him in a firm manner. Barrales began walking away and the victim felt forced to walk with him because of the firm grip Barrales had on him. The victim was scared and did not know what to do.

Barrales asked the victim his name and continued to walk him approximately 100 feet from the bank. Realizing her child had stepped out of the bank, the victim's mother shouted for him outside of the bank. The victim was able to break free of Barrales' grip and ran back to the bank. The victim's mother dialed 911 to report the kidnapping. Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputies and San Jose Police Department Officers responded to the scene. San Jose Police Officers were able to apprehend Barrales at a nearby 7-11 store. He was turned over to the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputies.

Barrales later told Deputies that he asked the victim if he wanted to play one of his ukuleles. He also told Deputies that he just felt like grabbing the "guerrito." (Spanish word for little white boy.) Prior to his contact with the 8-year-old boy, Barrales had asked a 19-year-old female inside a boutique store (next to the bank) if he could be her boyfriend.

Anyone with information or similar attempts is asked to contact Sgt. K. Binder at (408) 808-4510.

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