



## Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



### Chief Art de Werk

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

News Release Contact: Deputy Chief Michael Borges

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### Bank Robbery at Bank of the West in Ceres

Ceres, California – On January 4, 2012 at approximately 3:41 pm, Ceres Police responded to Bank of the West, located on the 2500 block of Whitmore Avenue in Ceres. Witness statements indicate that two, possibly three, suspects entered the bank via the north door. As they entered the bank, one suspect, described as a black male adult, approximately 6' to 6'2" tall, weighing 175 – 180 pounds, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, red polo type shirt, beige pants, and black and white shoes, threw a female customer to the floor.

A second suspect described as a Hispanic male adult, approx 5'8", 180 pounds, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, long white shirt, blue jeans, and black and white shoes, moved to the teller windows, with the first suspect, yelling at the victims demanding cash from the drawers.

As this took place, it appears a third suspect described as a Hispanic male adult wearing a black hooded sweat shirt, dark pants, and shoes stood by the north door that the suspects used to enter the bank.

While demanding money from the bank personnel, one suspect was holding his hand as if to simulate a weapon, however no weapon was seen by the victims. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of cash, the suspects ran out of the north door.

Statements indicate that possibly two of the suspects entered a late 90's to early 2000's sedan style vehicle, possibly a brown or tan Toyota, driven by a white female adult with brown hair. The vehicle fled north through the Richland Shopping Center. The third suspect was seen running on foot into a neighborhood north of the bank.

A search of the neighborhood was completed by officers on foot after a perimeter was set up by other units. Detectives processed the crime scene at the bank for evidence. Photographs from the bank security cameras (attached), as well as other evidence, were obtained. At approximately 5 pm, the search of the area was completed and no suspects were located.

Any possible witnesses to the incident are requested to contact Detective Venn at 538-5616 or Ceres Police Dispatch at 538-5713.

For more information on this news release, please contact Deputy Chief Michael Borges at (209) 538-5726 or [mike.borges@ci.ceres.ca.us](mailto:mike.borges@ci.ceres.ca.us).