

By Amy Sylvestri

San Leandro Times

A robber held up a downtown bank Tuesday afternoon around 4 p.m. and fled the scene before police arrived.

At first, police believed the suspect was still in the US Bank at 1585 East 14th Street, but that didn't turn out to be correct, according to Lt. Randy Brandt of the San Leandro police.

"We got a call of a robbery in progress and the initially thought was that he was still at the scene," Brandt said.

Several officers surrounded the bank and had the customers come out one by one. It was soon

Downtown Bank Robber Gets Away

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discovered that the suspect had left the bank before the cops arrived and they set up a perimeter to try to catch him, but came up empty-handed.

Brandt said the suspect approached a teller with a note that said he had a gun and wanted cash. Witnesses said they never reported seeing the gun.

The teller complied and the robber left just before police arrived.

Three helicopters circled the scene, but Brandt said they were all from television stations, not law enforcement looking for the suspect.

The suspect is described as a black or Hispanic male in his mid-20s. He was wearing a dark jacket over a lighter-colored hooded sweatshirt at the time of the robbery.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call the San Leandro police at 577-3233 or their anonymous tip line at 577-3278.

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