SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ed Barberini
Chief of Police

200 Franklin Pkwy
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 522-7710
www.sanmateopolice.org

MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT

For Immediate Release No. 20260316-019
Monday, March 16, 2026

Couple Arrested for Drugs and Gun Charges

A traffic stop leads to couple being arrested after drugs and ghost gun found in car.

San Mateo, CA – On March 13, 2026, at approximately 11pm, our Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) was driving southbound on US 101 near the Hillsdale Blvd. exit when they noticed an SUV having trouble staying in their lane, driving the lane lines multiple times. Believing the driver may be impaired they affected a traffic stop in the area of Brittan Ave./Industrial Rd. in San Carlos. While attempting to determine if the driver, identified as Laura Aguilar, was under the influence, officers found drugs belonging to her. At that point, a search of the vehicle was conducted and all remaining occupants, a male and two children (one of which had not been restrained in a car seat) were removed from the vehicle. Additional drugs and a bullet were located in a small bag in the backseat. A further search revealed a loaded unserialized/unregistered "ghost gun" found in the diaper bag accessible to the male subject, identified as Hector Barajas. The gun also had a threaded barrel, which designates it as an illegal "assault weapon".

The small children were released to family at the scene, and both subjects were arrested for multiple gun and drug charges and transported and booked into the San Mateo County Jail.

There are several lessons to be had here. The first, don't do drugs. Second, never drive impaired by drugs, alcohol, or prescription medication. Definitely don't drive impaired with children and/or others in the vehicle. Thirdly, all persons in a vehicle must be restrained by seat belts, car seats and/or booster seats, no matter the age. Fourth, don't own an unregistered/illegal firearm. If transporting a legal firearm, do so in the legal manner prescribed. And finally, never combine drugs, guns, and children. That is a dangerous combination and no good ever comes from it.

ARRESTED
Laura Aguilar, 35-year-old San Mateo resident
Hector Gonzalez Barajas, 25-year-old Fremont resident

CHARGES:
Aguilar: 11350(a) HS-Possess a controlled substance, 11370.1(a) HS-Possess a controlled substance while armed with loaded firearm, 23920(b) PC-Possession of a firearm without a serial number, 30515(a)(4) PC-Possession of an "assault weapon" (threaded barrel)

Barajas: 23920(b) PC-Possession of a firearm without a serial number, 25400(a)(1) PC-Carry a concealed weapon in a vehicle, 25850(c)(6) PC-Carry a loaded firearm not registered as owner, 30515(a)(4) PC-Possession of an "assault weapon" (threaded barrel)

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