

VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

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NEWS RELEASE
May 20, 2013

VPD Report Number: 13-05619, 13-04533 **Date/Time Occurred:** 5/10/13 at 2345 Hours

Type of Incident: Carjacking, Robbery, Assault with a

Deadly Weapon, and Gang Enhancement.

Location: 3000 Block of W. Walnut, Visalia, Ca

Name of Business (if applicable):

Adult Male

Suspect:	Age:	Arrested:
1. Meek, Ernie	32	Yes
2. Hispanic Female	17	Yes
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Details:

On 5/10/13 at 2345 hours officers were dispatched to the 3000 block of W. Walnut in the City of Visalia for a reported carjacking. Officers learned that the victim had gone to an apartment complex in the area where he was contacted by a group of gang members. The victim was forced to the ground at gun point at which time the suspects took personal property as well as the victim's vehicle. During the incident one of the suspects fired a round from a handgun. No injuries were reported as a result of the shots fired.

At 2351 hours while responding to the call for service a patrol officer spotted the victim vehicle along with an additional involved vehicle. Upon attempting to make contact the suspect fled on foot and was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit. The second vehicle involved was located several blocks away and an additional suspect was taken into custody at that location.

Suspect Ernie Meek was also wanted in connection with a narcotics case that stemmed from an April 17th search warrant at his residence. During the service of the warrant officers seized approximately 2 ounces of methamphetamine, 1 ounce of heroin, packaging material, and a large cache of ammunition.

Meek was booked into the Tulare County Main Jail for numerous charges related to the carjacking and narcotics sales. The female juvenile was booked into Tulare County Juvenile Hall for numerous charges related to the carjacking.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Patrol / Gang Suppression Unit

Supervisor: Sgt. C. Brown