

## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

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\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*
February 24, 2017

**VPD Report Number:** 17-15036

**Type of Incident:** 

Transportation and sale of Marijuana across state lines Possession of Marijuana for sale Conspiracy to sell Marijuana across state lines Maintaining a place where narcotics are sold and used Possession of a firearm during a narcotics transaction Felon in possession of a firearm

Possession of a high capacity magazine

**Date/Time Occurred:** 2/24/17 0700 Hours

Location: 2800 block of E. Mineral King, Visalia

13000 block of Ave. 400, Cutler

## Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:	Age:	Arrested:
1. Maria Lupercio	40	Yes
2. Jose Mora	41	Yes
<b>3.</b> Cynthia Carranza	19	Yes

**Details:** In October of 2016, the Visalia Police Department Narcotics Unit started an investigation into the shipping and sales of Marijuana across state lines, which is a felony in California. During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that Suspect Maria Lupercio was shipping packages through various US shipping companies that contained Marijuana. During a two month period, Narcotics officers seize approximately 36 pounds of processed and packaged Marijuana that Lupercio was shipping. Also during the course of the investigation it was discovered that Lupercio was on Felony probation in Los Angeles County for possession and transportation of narcotics for sale.

On 2/24/17 at 0700 hours members of the Visalia Police Department Narcotics Unit, Special Enforcement Unit and TARGET task force served search warrants in the 2800 block of E. Mineral King Ave. in Visalia and the 13000 block of Ave. 400 in Cutler. There officers located suspect Maria Lupercio, suspect Jose Mora and suspect Cynthia Carranza.



Officers also located 30 pounds of processed and packaged Marijuana, 2 firearms, packing and shipping materials and labels, and over \$10,000 in US currency.

Suspect Maria Lupercio was booked into the Tulare County Jail on the following charges:

Sales and Transportation of Marijuana across state lines, Maintaining a place where narcotics are sold or used, Possession of a firearm during a narcotic transaction, Felon in possession of a firearm, Possession of a high capacity magazine, Possession of Marijuana for sale and Conspiracy to sell narcotics.

Suspect Jose Mora was booked into the Tulare County Jail on the following charges:

Possession of Marijuana for sale, maintaining a place where narcotics are sold and used and Conspiracy to sell narcotics.

Suspect Cynthia Carranza was booked into the Tulare County Jail on the following charges:

Possession of Marijuana for sale, maintaining a place where narcotics are sold and used and Conspiracy to sell narcotics.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Narcotics Unit Supervisor: Sgt. S. Scofield

