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VISALIA POLICE 303 S. JOHNSON VISALIA, CA 93291

PRESS RELEASE

Crime or Accident No. 10-16575 Date and Time Occurred: 10/24/2010 hrs 2000 hrs

Type of Incident: Conspiracy, L

vehicle burglary, attempt auto theft,

and resisting

arrest

Location: Olive Garden parking lot in the Lowe's & Best Buy Shopping Center in the Packwood Creek

Shopping Center.

Age

Victim or Party: Jesus Rodriguez adult City: Visalia

Victim or Party: Leticia Herrera adult City: Visalia

Victim or Party: State of California City:

Age: Arrested: Suspect: Ernan Medrano 18 Yes City: Earlimart **Suspect: Armando Mendez** 20 Yes City: Earlimart **Suspect: Luis Alfredo Ontiveros** 18 Yes City: Earlimart Suspect: City:

Details:

On the listed date / time members of the Property Crimes Unit were conducting a surveillance detail on south Mooney Blvd in an attempt to identify & apprehend the suspects responsible for approximately 30 vehicle burglaries and attempt auto thefts that have been occurring primarily in south Visalia and more specifically in shopping centers on south Mooney Blvd within the approximate last 6 weeks. While the detail was taking place, detectives recognized a 2004 Pontiac Grand-Am vehicle that was involved in a string of vehicle burglaries in May of 2010, driving on Mooney Blvd. Surveillance was established on the vehicle which was found to be occupied by the listed 3 suspects. The suspect vehicle was observed driving into the Lowe's / Best Buy Shopping Centers as well as the Target Shopping Center several times at which time they cased several parked vehicles and conducted counter-surveillance. Eventually,

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Original · Chief of Police Copies: - Asst. Chiefs - Sgt. W/C (downstairs) - Duty Officer

- Lt. W/C (upstairs) - Det. Sergeants
- District Commanders - Dispatch
VPD #29 - Admin. Sergeant - Crime Analysis

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suspects Mendez and Ontiveros broke into the victim's parked GMC Yukon which was parked at the Olive Garden Restaurant parking lot and they attempted to steal it. As detectives attempted to apprehend these two suspects, they fled on foot into the Panera Bread Restaurant parking lot within the Target Shopping Center, where they were apprehended hiding within a dumpster enclosure. The driver of the vehicle, suspect Medrano, who was observed being the "look-out" was taken into custody as he went back into the vehicle after observing his associates flee on foot. All (3) suspects were booked into the Tulare County Main Jail for conspiracy to commit burglary / auto theft, attempt auto theft, vehicle burglary and resisting arrest. Detectives believe that these individuals are responsible for a large portion of the vehicle door "punch" burglaries that have been taking place recently in south Visalia. The investigation into the arrested suspects' involvement in the other burglaries is on-going and in order to determine if they have other associates involved in these vehicle burglaries.

Arresting Officer(s): Patrol Officers / Property Injuries: none

Crimes Detectives

Investigating Officer(s): same

Property Stolen or Recovered: 2006 GMC Yukon Date /Time Released: 10/25/2010

0150 hrs.

Supervisor: Sgt. Candido Alvarez

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VISALIA POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

Crime or Accident No.	
Details:	
Suspect Photo	
When Appropriate	

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