



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416
Release Prepared by: Commander Terry Medina
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Vehicle Tampering Arrest

Location: 7400 Block of Tyler Ct

Date/Time Occurred: 10/28/16 at 1421 hours

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Patrol

Victim(s):

Suspect(s): Michael Barnett, 37 years, vagrant Ventura

Report #: 16-15005

Narrative:

On the above date and time a citizen in the 7400 block of Tyler Ct observed a male subject rummaging through a vehicle that was parked on the street. When confronted this male ran to a grey colored van and sped away.

The citizen began following the van in his own vehicle while relaying this information to the Ventura Police Department Command Center.

The suspect van drove to the shopping center at Telegraph Rd and Kimball Rd where a female exited and walked away. The van again drove off southbound Kimball Rd and entered the eastbound 126 freeway and accelerated at a high rate of speed as the responding officers caught up to it.

The officers were able to stop this vehicle on the 126 Freeway just west of the Wells Rd off-ramp where they took the driver, Michael Barnett, into custody without incident.

The investigation determined that Barnett, who was wearing a uniform shirt from a delivery company, had been on Tyler Ct and entered an unlocked vehicle possibly looking for items to steal when confronted by the citizen. It was not known if Barnett actually stole any property as the owner of the vehicle was not available for contact.

Barnett was transported to the Ventura County Main Jail where he was booked on a misdemeanor charge of vehicle tampering. His van was impounded.

The female that Barnett dropped off was not located and her identity is unknown. She was described as a Hispanic female, 25 years old with bleach blonde hair. She was wearing a brown leather jacket, grey shirt, and black pants.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information related to this crime is urged to call the Ventura Police Department Watch Commander at 339-4416, or make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

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