

Grand Theft Investigation and Arrest

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06/20/2016

Incident: Grand Theft Investigation and Arrest

Location: 4700 block Telephone Rd

Date/Time Occurred: 6/16/16 at 12:15 p.m.

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Street Crimes Unit Detectives

Suspect(s): Ara Ghazarian, 54 years, West Hills resident

Report #: 16-06657

Narrative:

In May 2016 the Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit began an investigation into reports that two victims' diamonds had been switched for fake stones by the suspect at his jewelry store.

The suspect, identified as Ara Ghazarian, is the owner operator of Jewelry Unlimited in 4700 block of Telephone Rd in Ventura.

One victim noticed something was wrong with her wedding ring after she had a new setting made by Ghazarian. The victim had this ring inspected at a different jewelry store and discovered that the original diamond from her wedding had been replaced with a "Moissanite" stone which is a manufactured diamond replica.

The second victim took a family heirloom ring with a unique style of diamond into Ghazarian's business to have minor repair performed. She also discovered that the diamond from her ring had been switched out with a Moissanite stone. The fake stone had been altered to resemble the style and shape of the original diamond.

Based on Ghazarian's actions and additional evidence discovered during this investigation detectives determined that he intentionally switched the victims' real diamonds with fake stones with an estimated total loss of over \$8,000.00.

On 6/16/16 Ventura Police Department Street Crimes detectives served a search warrant at Ghazarian's business and took him into custody on two counts of Grand Theft.

He was later transported to the Ventura County Main Jail and booked on the listed charges.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information related to this crime is urged to call the Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit at 339-4325, 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.