



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416  
Release Prepared by: Sergeant S. Harbert  
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Incident:** Robbery & Assault with Deadly Weapon Arrest

**Location:** Family Discount Store-107 W. Main Street

**Date/Time Occurred:** 12/31/17 1330 Hours

**Officer(s) Involved:** VPD Patrol

**Suspect(s):** Gilbert Ortiz 29, Ventura Resident

**Report #:** 17-17327

**Narrative:**

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call of a possible stabbing that had just occurred at the Family Discount Store, located at 107 W. Main Street. Officers, along with Ventura City Fire and AMR personnel responded to the scene and located two stabbing victims. The first victim, a female employee of the store, had sustained a small laceration to her face and hand. The second victim, a male passerby, was found to be suffering from non-life threatening stab wounds to the neck and upper torso.

During the investigation, officers learned the suspect, later identified as Gilbert Ortiz, had entered the store and began to select merchandise from behind the front counter. The female clerk confronted Ortiz and asked him to leave the store. Ortiz produced a knife and lunged over the counter at the clerk, cutting her on the face and hand. A male passerby witnessed this act and confronted Ortiz who proceeded to stab him in the neck and torso.

A security guard, assigned to the surrounding shopping center, witnessed this crime and followed Ortiz as he fled out of the store on foot. Ortiz turned on the security guard, brandished the knife and threatened to harm the guard. Fearing for his safety, the security guard discontinued his pursuit. Ortiz was last seen running north from the shopping center.

Officers were able to obtain security footage of the crime and recognized Ortiz as the suspect. Officers located Ortiz in front of a residence in the 300 Block of Olive Street a short time later and took him into custody without incident.

*The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at [www.venturapd.org](http://www.venturapd.org)*

*If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.*

*If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.*

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Ortiz was placed under arrest and booked into Ventura County Pre-Trial Detention facility on charges of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and brandishing a weapon.

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