

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416
Release Prepared by: Sergeant Kenny Welch
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: **Arrest and Update:** Hot Prowl Residential Burglaries / Sexual Assaults

Location: 6600 block of Webster St., 600 block of Atlanta Ln., 1500 block of Echidna Ln., 700 block of South Hill St.

Date/Time Occurred: April 21st, 2016 through August 8th, 2016 / 0500-0610 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Major Crimes and Special Victims Unit Detectives and Patrol

Suspect: **Edgar Ricardo Ruelas (dob: 07/24/1982)**

Report #s: 16-05625, 16-06432, 16-08104, 16-10990

Narrative:

On 4/21/16, at 0512 hours, the Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to 6600 Block of Webster St. in reference to a female victim reporting that an unidentified male made entry into her residence sliding glass door, sexually assaulted the victim, and fled when the victim awoke. The suspect was wearing gloves, dark clothes and had a ski mask.

On 5/7/16, at 0500 hours, the Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to 600 block Atlanta Ln. in reference to a female victim reporting that an unidentified male was peeping through her bedroom window. The suspect was wearing all dark clothing and wearing a ski mask.

On 6/11/16, at 0538 hours, the Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to 1500 block of Echidna Ln. in reference to a female victim reporting that an unidentified male made entry into her residence through a sliding glass door, groped the victim's buttocks, and fled when the victim awoke and screamed. The suspect was wearing gloves, dark clothes and had a ski mask.

On 8/8/16, at 0535 hours, the Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to 700 block of Hill St. in reference to a female victim reporting that an unidentified male made entry into her residence through a sliding glass door left open for a cat, sexually assaulted the victim, and fled when the victim awoke and screamed. The suspect was wearing gloves, dark clothes and had a ski mask.

On 3/6/20, Edgar Ruelas was arrested by the Ventura County Sherriff's Office for the attempted kidnapping of a female in Oak Park. Ruelas had been wearing all dark clothing and a ski mask during the abduction. During the investigation, VCSO detectives learned that Ruelas had been living in the Ventura area during 2016 and in the area of the above four crimes. The VCSO detectives contacted the Ventura Police Department, who began another investigation.

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

During the in-depth investigation, VPD detectives learned that all four crimes occurred within a 2.5-mile radius of where Ruelas lived. The investigation revealed that Ruelas matched the suspect's description, and his behavior was consistent with the suspect's actions during the crime spree. After Ruelas moved out of the area in September 2016, there were no assaults or similar crimes reported in this area.

Detectives spoke to witnesses who lived in the area and knew of Ruelas. The witnesses said they had seen Ruelas leave early in the mornings and suspected he had something to do with the area's crimes, but they never reported it.

Based on the totality of the circumstances through the investigation, Ruelas was arrested for Residential Burglary, Assault with Intent to Commit Rape, and Sexual Penetration by Force. Ruelas is in custody at the Ventura County Jail with a bail of \$5,000,000 for VCSO and VPD cases.

These investigations are ongoing, and if you have any information reference these crimes, please contact Detective Jesus Nunez Ventura Police Department Special Victims Unit at 805-339-4465

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VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT • 1425 DOWELL DR. • VENTURA, CA 93003 • 805-339-4400
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