



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Street Crimes Unit, (805) 339-4389
Release Prepared by: Det. Sergeant Edward Caliento
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Attempt Grand Theft, Felony Vandalism, Vehicle Tampering, Possession of Stolen Property, and Conspiracy Arrests.

Location: 1000 block of Santa Clara St

Date/Time Occurred: 07/28/20 @ 0330 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura Police Patrol, K9 Unit, Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

Suspect(s): Sergio Casteneda (DOB: 10/23/87) Los Angeles resident
Erik Gomez-Diaz (DOB: 4/14/85) Los Angeles resident
Luis Ramirez-Nunez (DOB: 3/25/79) Los Angeles resident

Report #: 20-49251

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call about two suspects tampering with a car in the 1000 block of Santa Clara St. The suspects fled in a vehicle before finishing stealing the catalytic converter, leaving the victim's car damaged. Ventura Police Patrol officers located the suspect vehicle and pulled it over. Inside officers contacted the three suspects who had four stolen catalytic converters with them.

Ventura Police Street Crimes (SCU) detectives responded to assist in the investigation. Detectives were able to identify two additional victims in Ventura. One catalytic converter was stolen from Howard St and one from Evergreen Dr. The three suspects had tools, a cordless saw, and a car jack with them. There has been a dramatic increase in Ventura County in this type of theft over the last six months. Though this type of crime is hard to protect against, there are mechanics that can modify your vehicle with aftermarket products that make it more difficult for criminals to steal car parts.

All three suspects are from the Los Angeles area. They were arrested and transported to the Ventura County Jail, where they were booked for attempted grand theft, felony vandalism, vehicle tampering, possession of stolen property, and conspiracy.

This is an ongoing investigation. If anyone has information or was the victim of catalytic converter theft from 7/27 – 7/28, please contact the Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit.

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.

VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT • 1425 DOWELL DR. • VENTURA, CA 93003 • 805-339-4400
WWW.VENTURAPD.ORG - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VENTURAPD