



MEDIA RELEASE

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VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Hot prowl residential burglary, vehicle theft, petty theft, hit and run arrest

Location: 1000 block of Gilbert Lane

Date/Time Occurred: 11/9/20 0207

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Patrol and K9

Suspect(s): Joseph Key, 18 years, Ventura resident

Report #: 20-73493, 20-73495

Narrative:

At the above date and time, officers responded to suspicious circumstances involving a hit and run that occurred when a reporting party saw their neighbor's vehicle leave the victim's home erratically and strike a parked car. The vehicle then fled the area.

Responding officers arrived and determined that the suspect in this case had entered the victim's unlocked car parked in the lot adjacent to their home. The suspect removed a garage door opener from the unlocked car, opened their garage, and burglarized the home while the victims were inside sleeping. The suspect loaded property into a pickup truck that was parked in the garage and fled, committing the hit and run on a parked car in the process.

Shortly after, an unrelated reporting party called the Ventura Police Command Center to report a hit and run in the area of Telephone Rd and Wells Rd. The vehicle description matched the stolen truck. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the vehicle initially.

While searching for the vehicle, an officer observed the stolen vehicle parked in an alley southeast of Telephone Rd and Portola Ave. Additional officers responded to assist. While standing by for additional officers, the suspect came out from a nearby apartment and entered the truck. Officers safely detained the suspect. Evidence linking the suspect to the burglary, vehicle theft, theft, and both hit and runs were obtained through the investigation. The suspect was booked for 459 PC first degree residential burglary, 10851 VC vehicle theft, 484 (a) petty theft, and two counts of 20002(a) VC hit and run. The vehicle and property taken from the home were returned to the owner.

Additional garage door openers not related to the initial victim were located but their owners are currently unidentified.

The Ventura Police Department would like to remind residents to lock their vehicles and remove garage door openers from vehicles kept outside if possible.

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.

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No officers or subjects involved were injured during these incidents.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the crime should contact the Ventura Police Watch Commander at (805) 339-4488.

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