

Incident: Gang-Related Vandalism, Conspiracy, and Firearm Arrests

Location: Thompson Bl and California St

Date/Time Occurred: 3/15/22 at 23:07

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol

Suspects:

Christopher Cruz, 21-year-old, Ventura resident

Christopher Ruiz, 18-year-old Ventura resident

Two 17-year-old males, Ventura residents

Report #: 22-16913

Narrative:

On the above date and time, an alert citizen reported four males committing multiple acts of spray paint vandalism at the Santa Clara parking structure. Ventura police officers responded and located the suspect vehicle driving out of the area. The vehicle was stopped, and the occupants were detained while officers investigated.

The suspects were identified as having committed multiple gang-related vandalisms with spray paint. A search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of multiple cans of spray paint and two loaded, unregistered handguns commonly referred to as "ghost guns."

Ultimately Cruz was arrested for PC 594 (b)(1) Felony Vandalism, PC 186.22(b)(1) Commission of a Gang Crime, PC 182 Criminal Conspiracy, and 14601.2 VC Driving a Suspended License.

Ruiz was arrested for PC 594 (b)(1) Felony Vandalism, PC 186.22(b)(1) Commission of a Gang Crime, PC 182 Criminal Conspiracy, PC 29815 Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person, PC 25850 Carrying a Loaded Firearm in Public, and PC 30305 Possession of Ammunition by a Prohibited Person.

The juveniles were arrested for various gang-related vandalism, conspiracy, and firearm crimes as well.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with any information is requested to contact the VPD Watch Commander at 805-339-4416.

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.