

**Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416**  
**Release Prepared by: Commander Mike Brown**  
**VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Incident:** Negligent Discharge of a Firearm and Vehicle Pursuit

**Location:** Downtown Ventura and Channel Islands Harbor Oxnard

**Date/Time Occurred:** 9/16/23 at 0129 hours

**Officer(s) Involved:** Ventura Police Patrol, VPD K9 Deco, Oxnard PD, and Ventura County Sheriff Deputies

**Suspect(s):** Jose Manuel Herrera (37 yrs.) Oxnard Resident

**Report #:** 23-59988

**Narrative:**

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Command Center received several 911 calls reporting a large fight with approximately 100 people at the intersection of Main St. and Oak Street. As officers were responding, an additional caller saw a Hispanic male with a bandana covering his face had a handgun tucked in his waistband. The caller reported the Hispanic male with the gun was seen entering a silver Toyota sedan that was now driving southbound out of the area.

While officer were searching the area, an officer reported hearing a single gunshot around Palm St. and Santa Clara Street. Officers saw a silver sedan fleeing the area on Thompson Blvd. and believed the vehicle to be involved.

The silver sedan drove past a sergeant in the area and he was able to make a U-turn to make a traffic stop. Several subjects immediately fled from the vehicle at California St. and Thompson Boulevard. The silver sedan fled towards Harbor Boulevard. The sergeant initiated a pursuit of the vehicle believing it was involved in the negligent discharge of a firearm.

The pursuit traveled eastbound on Harbor Blvd. and was cancelled due to the speed of the vehicle and the driver's wanton disregard for the public's safety. The vehicle continued towards Oxnard at excessive speeds and driving with no lights on.

Ventura PD Officers were alerted to a vehicle crash around Channel Islands Blvd. and Harbor Blvd. in the City of Oxnard. We responded to that area and the vehicle involved in the collision was the same vehicle that fled from our officers. Ventura PD assisted Oxnard PD with a search of the driver and occupants that fled from the vehicle. Ventura Police K9 Deco began a track from the vehicle.

*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.*

While VPD officers were actively tracking with the K9, Ventura County Sheriff Deputies stopped a suspicious subject who was soaking wet in a nearby Carls Jr. parking lot. K9 Deco led officers to that location and the VPD sergeant that initiated the pursuit was able to confirm the subject detained by deputies was the driver of the silver sedan.

The driver, Jose Herrera was arrested for felony evading. The investigation of the negligent discharge of a firearm is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Ventura Police Command Center at 805-650-8010.

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