

Extortion Arrest

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11/04/2015

Incident: Extortion Arrest

Location: 6200 Block of Ventura Blvd.

Date/Time Occurred: 11/3/15 @ 1100Hrs

Officer(s) Involved: OPD Patrol / VPD Patrol / VPD Major Crime Detectives

Suspect(s): Mark Gallegos / 44yrs / Montclair Resident

Victim: (Name Withheld)

Report #: 15-15026

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call from the Oxnard Police Department reference a victim who was calling from the area of Vineyard Ave and Ventura Blvd. The victim told the Oxnard Police Department that he had been extorted out of several thousand dollars, and the suspect (Gallegos) was currently across the street from where the victim was calling from. OPD Officers responded and detained Gallegos. Upon further questioning, it was determined the extortion had been taking place at the victim's place of business in the 6200 Block of Ventura Blvd. in the City of Ventura. VPD Patrol officers responded and took over the investigation.

VPD Major Crimes Detectives were notified and learned Gallegos is the owner/operator of, "Sharkies, the collection expert". Gallegos essentially uses fear and intimidation tactics to collect on potential debt from businesses. In this case, Gallegos had been making threats to harm the victim over the past year in order to collect money. On 11/3/15, Gallegos showed up at the victim's house demanding payment. The victim was not home, but family members notified him and the victim notified the police.

Gallegos was booked at the Ventura County Jail for 520PC – Extortion. This case is on-going and the Ventura Police is asking for anyone with further information, or any other victims to call Det. Eric Vazquez at (805)339-4413.