

Person prohibited from possessing firearm, identity theft, possession of firearm and controlled substance, possession of loaded firearm in a vehicle, running a “chop shop”, forgery and counterfeit currency investigation and arrest

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Incident: Person prohibited from possessing firearm, identity theft, possession of firearm and controlled substance, possession of loaded firearm in a vehicle, running a “chop shop”, forgery and counterfeit currency investigation and arrest

Contact: Watch Commander, 805-339-4416

Location: 600 block Via Alondra, Camarillo

Date/Time Occurred: 5/1/14 @ 1400 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura Police Street Crimes Unit Detectives, VPD K9, VCSO Camarillo Detectives/ Patrol and VCSO Air Unit

Suspect(s): Drew Dotts, 45 years of Camarillo

Report #: 14-05377

Narrative:

Ventura Police Street Crimes Unit detectives completed a several month long investigation into Drew Dotts. He was suspected to be involved in several forgery and ID theft cases. The investigation led to the service of a search warrant at his business/ residence in the 600 block of Via Alondra in Camarillo.

Just prior to the search warrant service, at least three people fled from the location in two different vehicles and a motorcycle. One of the vehicles was stopped by a VCSO patrol deputy, however the motorcycle and other vehicle did not stop. The motorcycle driver stopped a short distance away in the industrial complex, abandoned the motorcycle and got into the other vehicle as it was fleeing. The male then grabbed a bag and threw it out of the car as it fled the business complex. The abandoned motorcycle turned out to be a reported stolen out of the City of Ventura. The bag that was thrown from the vehicle contained an assault weapon and evidence of identity theft and forgery. The VCSO Air Unit assisted with the initial search for the two suspects in the outstanding vehicle, however the vehicle and the two suspects were not located.

At the conclusion of the search warrant and investigation, detectives had located additional evidence of identity theft and forgery, including manufacturing of counterfeit US currency. Two additional firearms and body armor were also located, along with methamphetamine. Two additional stolen motorcycles were located inside the business, and a suspected stolen utility trailer was also discovered. Based on the additional stolen motorcycles and trailer, and the fact that they were in the process of being parted and dismantled, a “chop shop” investigation was initiated by the Ventura County stolen vehicle task force. Secret Service also assisted with the counterfeit currency portion of the investigation.

The suspect, Drew Dotts who was in custody at the time of the search warrant on related charges was later booked on the additional charges of prohibited person in possession of a firearm, identity theft, possession of a firearm and a controlled substance, possession of loaded firearm in a vehicle, felon in possession of ammunition, running a “chop shop”, additional forgery charges and manufacturing counterfeit US currency.