

UPDATE: -- Arrest of Suspect -- Strong Arm Robbery/Battery (Pacific View Mall)



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Incident: UPDATE: -- Arrest of Suspect -- Strong Arm Robbery/Battery (Pacific View Mall)

Contact: Cmdr. Darin Schindler, 805-339-4341

Location: 3301 E Main St

Date of Incident: January 16, 2014, 9:00 p.m.

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Patrol Officers / Major Crimes Investigators

Victim(s): 25 year old female (name withheld) Ventura Resident

Suspect(s): UPDATE: -- Blas Hernandez, 11-11-90, Ventura resident

Report #: 14-00688

Narrative:

On January 17, 2014, the Ventura Police Department (VPD) issued a press release (original release can be found here: <http://www.cityofventura.net/press-release/press-release-strong-arm-robberies-battery>) regarding a 25-year-old female who was walking through the parking lot on the north side of the Pacific View Mall adjacent to the mall parking structure when she was approached from behind and struck in the waist. The victim turned to face her attacker and attempted to call police on her cell phone. The suspect forcibly knocked the victim's phone from her hands, picked it up, and fled the area on foot.

The VPD's Major Crimes Detectives and Patrol officers worked together with the Pacific View Mall Security and Target Asset Protection to investigate the above crimes. VPD Detectives obtained video surveillance from the Mall Security and Target. VPD Detectives also utilized VPD's Facebook page and posted pictures of the suspect obtained from the incident. As a result, VPD Detectives received information from concerned citizens regarding the identity of the suspect that attacked the female victim at the mall on January 16.

VPD Detectives and Patrol conducted further investigation into the crime and later identified Blas Hernandez as the suspect. On January 31, 2014, VPD patrol officers located Hernandez in the 200 block of Wesley Ave in Ventura and arrested him for battery, robbery, dissuading a witness from reporting a crime, and an unrelated outstanding felony warrant. Hernandez was booked into the Ventura County Jail for the above charges.