



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

Sergeant Ozzie Dominguez, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
odominguez@ci.visalia.ca.us

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

September 19, 2013

VPD Report Number: 13-11602

Date/Time Occurred: 9/18/13 2020 hours

Type of Incident:

- Cultivation of Marijuana
- Conspiracy
- Gang Enhancement
- Felon In Possession of a Firearm
- Possession of a High Capacity Magazine

Location: 1500 Block of North Thomas Court

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----|-----|
| 1. Sidney Vongphakdy | 25 | Yes |
| 2. Phothong Vongphakdy | 31 | Yes |
| 3. | | |

Details: On 9/18/13 2020 hours, officers were dispatched to a narcotics violation call in the 1500 block of N. Thomas Court, where individuals were unloading marijuana plants from a moving van. When officers arrived, they were able to make contact with the listed suspects and observed numerous marijuana plants in the garage. It was also discovered that there was a large outdoor grow and an indoor grow area had been built.

Detectives from the Narcotics Unit were called to the scene and took over the investigation. There were 534 marijuana plants located on the property and in the residence. Officers also located a loaded 9mm handgun with a 30-round magazine in the residence. Both suspects, who are validated gang members, are also convicted felons. Although both suspects had a medical marijuana recommendation, they were well over those recommendations.

Both suspects were transported and booked into the Tulare County Jail for Cultivation of Marijuana, Felon in Possession of Firearm, Possession of a High Capacity Magazine, Conspiracy, Gang Enhancement. The suspects had also bypassed the electrical meters and were stealing power for their indoor grow. Code Enforcement was contacted and posted the residence "Unsafe to Occupy" based on the unsafe electrical.



Arresting / Investigating Officer: Patrol and
Narcotics Unit

Supervisor: R. Epp

