



# VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**January 31, 2014**

**VPD Report Number:** 14-01201

**Date/Time Occurred:** 1/30/14 1740 hours

**Type of Incident:**

- Attempted Robbery
- Conspiracy to Commit a Felony
- Gang Enhancement
- Felon in Possession of a Firearm
- Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Crime

**Location:** SR 198 and SR 65

**Name of Business (if applicable):**

**Suspect:**

**Age:**

**Arrested:**

- |                          |    |     |
|--------------------------|----|-----|
| 1. Ronald Divletson      | 33 | Yes |
| 2. Miguel Villegas       | 21 | Yes |
| 3. Gustavo Jesus Mendoza | 22 | Yes |

**Details:**

Additional Suspect:

- |                 |    |     |
|-----------------|----|-----|
| 4. Joel Serrato | 24 | Yes |
|-----------------|----|-----|

On 1/30/14 at approximately 1740 hours, Visalia Narcotics detectives were assisting DEA agents with an undercover detail involving the purchase of Oxycodone from (S) Ronald Ditlevson at an undisclosed location in the City of Visalia. This was an on-going investigation where an undercover agent had made purchases from Ditlevson without incident. During the detail, (S) Miguel Villegas and (S) Gustavo Jesus Mendoza approached the DEA vehicle, one with a handgun, in what was believed to be an attempted robbery of the DEA agent. The agent was able to drive from the area and the surveillance detail followed Ditlevson's vehicle after he picked up (S) Villegas and (S) Mendoza. A felony stop was conducted with the assistance of patrol officers at SR198 and SR65. Four occupants taken into custody and loaded .45 caliber handgun was located in the vehicle. Ditlevson was taken into federal custody for charges related to this investigation. (S)Villegas, (S)Mendoza and (S)Joel Serrato, who was also in the vehicle at the time of the incident, were



booked into the Tulare County Jail for Attempted Robbery, Conspiracy to Commit a Felony, Gang Enhancement and various weapons charges.

**Arresting / Investigating Officer:** Narcotics Unit

**Supervisor:** R. Epp

