



# VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

Sergeant Damon Maurice, Public Information Officer  
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)  
dmaurice@ci.visalia.ca.us

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**July 23, 2015**

**VPD Report Number:** 15-08306, 15-08789

**Date/Time Occurred:** 6/17/15 @ 0218 Hours,  
6/25/15 @ 0036 Hours

**Type of Incident:** Armed Robbery

**Location:** Valeros, 4445 W. Noble Ave.  
7-11, 1201 S Mooney Blvd.

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

**Suspect:**

**Age:**

**Arrested:**

1. Torales, John Martin
- 2.
- 3.

25

yes

**Details:** On 6/17/15 at 0218 Hours and on 6/25/15 at 0036 Hours, Visalia Police were dispatched to an Armed Robbery had just occurred at the above listed locations. Officers learned that an unknown suspect entered the business, on both occasions, with an item covering his face. Once inside, the suspect pointed a gun at the clerk and demanded money. The suspect obtained an undetermined amount of US Currency and fled the scene in a vehicle. The clerks did not receive any injuries.

\*\*\*\*\*UPDATE - 7/22/15\*\*\*\*\*

The Violent Crimes Unit conducted a follow up investigation into these incidents. The investigation revealed that Suspect John Torales was responsible for both armed robberies. On 7/18/15, Suspect Torales was arrested for a Parole Violation by the Farmersville Police Department, on an unrelated incident, while in the company of Estevan Gomez, who was involved in the officer involved shooting with the Farmersville Police Department..

On 7/20/15 at 1330 Hours, a search warrant was served at a residence associated with the Suspect Torales. Evidence was located which linked Suspect Torales to both robberies. On 7/21/15, Suspect Torales, who was being held at the Tulare County Jail for unrelated charges was booked for the 7-11 and Valeros armed robberies that occurred on 6/17/15 and 6/25/15. The investigation is continuing.



\*\*\*\*\*UPDATE - 7/23/15\*\*\*\*\*

As a result of the ongoing investigation into Suspect Torales, the Violent Crimes Unit worked with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, Kingsburg Police Department, and Fresno County Sheriff's Department. The investigation revealed that Suspect Torales is believed to have committed additional armed robberies in these other jurisdictions. Today, Suspect Torales will be charged with six additional Armed Robberies from the Tulare and Fresno County area which are listed below.

- 6/19/15 at 0358 Hours - Tipton, Ca (TCSO Report #15-7640)
- 6/19/15 at 0443 Hours - Poplar, Ca (TCSO Report #15-7641)
- 6/29/15 at 0128 Hours - Kingsburg, Ca (Kingsburg PD Report #15-885)
- 6/29/15 at 0239 Hours - Fresno County, Ca (Fresno SO Report #15-9474)
- 7/3/15 at 0356 Hours - Earlimart, Ca (TCSO Report #15-8261)
- 7/3/15 at 0429 Hours - Tipton, Ca (TCSO Report #15-8262)

The investigation is ongoing.

**Arresting / Investigating Officer:** VPD Patrol/ Violent Crimes

**Supervisor:** Sgt. Kroeze S159

