



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Sergeant Damon Maurice, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
damon.maurice@visalia.city

*****NEWS RELEASE*****
March 1, 2016

Suspect # 1

Makaella Leonardo 20 years of age
City of Visalia

Suspect # 2

Jorge Suarez 32 years of age
City of Visalia

On 3/1/16 at 0248 hours The Visalia Police Department received a call regarding a suspicious vehicle in the area of Court and Green Oaks. The caller believed the vehicle was involved in thefts from the neighborhood.

Upon arrival to the area an officer located the suspect vehicle and conducted an investigative traffic stop at Court and Green Oaks. Upon attempting contact with the occupants the officer was confronted by a vicious dog that had emerged from an open rear passenger window. The officer retreated and ordered the occupants to secure the animal and exit the vehicle.

The occupants failed to comply and fled the scene in the vehicle. Officers initiated a pursuit which led them to the city of Exeter. The driver of the vehicle failed to negotiate a turn at Visalia Road and "G" Street in the city of Exeter. The vehicle collides with parked cars in the area and rolls over.

S/Leonardo and S/Suarez were transported to a local hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. The dog fled from the vehicle at the time of the collision and was not located.



S/Leonardo was found to have active felony arrest warrants for burglary. S/Suarez also had active felony burglary warrants. Both suspects will be booked into The Tulare County Pre-Trial facility.

Stolen property from the neighborhood of the initial call was recovered from the vehicle as well as numerous other items related to property crimes from within the city of Visalia. Property Crimes Detectives have taken over the investigation and additional charges are expected.

Submitted by Sgt. Luma Fahoum
Visalia Police Department Patrol Division

