



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*****

April 8, 2016

VPD Report Number: 16-05080

Date/Time Occurred: April 8, 2016 @ 0956 Hours

Type of Incident: Carjacking / Pursuit / Assault with a
Deadly Weapon on a Police Officer / Hit and Run Arrest

Location: 100 block S. Floral

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Jose Tapia

25

Yes

Details: The Visalia Police Department responded to the 100 block of S. Floral for a report of a carjacking that just occurred. The investigation showed an adult female Victim had just parked her vehicle in a parking stall on the street and exited her vehicle. The Suspect approached on foot and forcefully took the vehicle keys from the Victim. The Victim was uninjured. The Suspect then stole the Victim's vehicle and eventually fled east on Highway 198. A description of the stolen vehicle was broadcast to surrounding agencies.

An employee from AMR Ambulance spotted the vehicle on Highway 198 near Exeter and contacted the California Highway Patrol. A Woodlake Police Officer located the vehicle and initiated a pursuit. Woodlake PD, with assistance from the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, CHP and other agencies, pursued the vehicle to the Woodlake area. During the pursuit, the Suspect drove into oncoming traffic lanes directly at a Tulare County Sheriff's Deputy's vehicle. The Deputy had to pull off the road to avoid a collision with the Suspect.

The Suspect later collided with a parked vehicle which caused damage to the vehicle and led to the Suspect exiting the vehicle and fleeing on foot in the area of Millwood Ave and Road 196. He was taken into custody a short time later without incident.

The suspect was interviewed and later booked into the Tulare County Jail for Carjacking, Felony Evading, Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Police Officer and Hit and Run.



Arresting / Investigating Officer: VPD Patrol/ Woodlake PD/ CHP/
TCSO

Supervisor: Sgt. D. Maurice

