



# VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

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

**August 6, 2018**

**VPD Report Number:** 18-69487

**Date/Time Occurred:** 8-6-18/0058 hrs

**Type of Incident:** Felony Evading, Felon Possess Loaded Firearm/ammunition, Carry Loaded/Concealed Firearm in Public, Possess/Transport Meth for Sale, Conspiracy/Participate in Criminal Street Gang

**Location:** 600 Block of S. Lovers Lane to the intersection of Lovers Lane/St. Johns Avenue

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

**Suspect:**

**Age:**

**Arrested:**

1. Gerardo Ocegueda Leon
2. Elva Flores
- 3.

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Yes  
Yes

**Details:** On 8-6-18 at approximately 0058 hours, a Visalia Police Officer initiated a traffic stop for a registration violation and began speaking with the occupants of the vehicle which pulled over in the parking lot of the AM/PM located at 600 S. Lovers Lane. While the officer was speaking with the occupants, the driver, identified as Gerardo Ocegueda Leon sped off at a high rate of speed, heading north on Lovers Lane, leading the officer on a short pursuit. The suspect vehicle drove without regard for the safety of the public, failing to stop for red lights before colliding with a metal pole at Lovers Lane and St. Johns Avenue. The driver fled the vehicle on foot, leaving behind his passenger, Elva Flores. The officer was able to take Leon into custody after chasing him for several blocks. Officers located a loaded firearm in the suspect's vehicle, and approximately 1 oz. of crystal methamphetamine. Further investigation revealed Leon has a prior felony conviction, precluding him from possessing a firearm or ammunition. Leon was also found to be a member of a street gang. Both suspects were booked at the Adult Pre-Trial Facility for the above listed charges.

**Arresting / Investigating Officer:** Patrol

**Supervisor:** Sgt. C. T. Jennings



