



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Sergeant Mike Short, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
mike.short@visalia.city

*****NEWS RELEASE*****
February 24, 2022

VPD Report Number: 22-15097

Date/Time Occurred: February 24, 2022 / 10:40 am

Type of Incident:

- Narcotics Sales
- Prohibited Person in Possession of Ammunition
- Prohibited Person in Possession of a Firearm
- Possession of a Stolen Firearm
- Providing False Identity to Law Enforcement

Location: 2000 Block of North Ben Maddox

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Rebeca Bardone	65	Yes
2. Donnie Gomes	38	Yes
3. Fred Esguerra	41	Yes
4. Makaella Leonardo	26	Yes

Details: On February 24, 2022 at 10:40 am, Visalia Police Department Narcotics Detectives, Special Enforcement Unit officers, and the TARGET Task Force served a search warrant at a residence in the 2000 block of North Ben Maddox Way. Upon arrival, Suspect Donnie Gomes (38) fled on foot but was captured nearby. Gomes is a convicted felon and was found to be in possession of live ammunition. Suspect Rebecca Bardone (65) was contacted in the residence and found to be in possession of methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl with the intent to distribute each. Suspect Fred Esguerra (41) was contacted in the front yard of the residence. Esguerra is also a convicted felon and was found to be in possession of a (1) loaded firearm and (1) stolen firearm. Suspect Makaella Leonardo (26) provided a false identity to officers and once property identified, was found to be a wanted parolee at large. All suspects were arrested for various charges and booked into the Tulare County Adult Pretrial Detention Facility.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Narcotics Unit

Supervisor: Sgt. O’Rafferty

