



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****
March 24, 2023

VPD Report Number: 23-024465

Date/Time Occurred: 03/24/2023 1:20 p.m.

Type of Incident: Felony Hit and Run
Stolen Vehicle Arrest
Outstanding Warrant Arrest

Location: Caldwell Ave/ Ben Maddox Way

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Blake Howerton
2. Miguel Rodriguez

38
42

Yes
Yes

Details:

On 03/24/2023 at 1:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to the area of Caldwell Ave and Ben Maddox Way for a traffic collision. As officers were responding, the occupants of an involved Dodge truck fled the scene on foot. The occupant of the second involved vehicle was transported to Kaweah Health Medical Center for a medical evaluation.

Officers learned that the Dodge truck was reported stolen from the City of Porterville. Additional officers responded to assist and searched the area for the suspects. With the assistance of the Unmanned Arial System Unit, officers located Blake Howerton. Howerton was identified as the driver of the stolen Dodge truck. He is on AB109 mandatory supervision for Grand Theft and has an outstanding no bail arrest warrant for Auto Theft, Possession of Burglary Tools, Grand Theft, and a drug related offense.

Howerton was arrested for Auto Theft, Felony Hit and Run, and his outstanding warrant. He is being treated for the injuries he sustained during the traffic accident.

Officers were able to identify Miguel Rodriguez as an occupant of the stolen Dodge truck. Rodriguez was located and arrested in the 900 block of E Arlen Ave after patrol received several calls for service of a suspicious male in the area. Rodriguez is on CDC Parole for Auto Theft.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Traffic Unit / Patrol/ UAS

Supervisor: Sergeant Henry Martinez

