



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

April 5, 2023

VPD Report Number: 23-027832

Date/Time Occurred: April 4, 2023 3:17 pm

Type of Incident: Stolen Vehicle/Narcotics Arrest

Location: Hillman/Prosperity Tulare, CA

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Bridgett Morel

43

Yes

2. Margarita Rodriguez

31

Yes

Details: On April 4, 2023, at 3:15 pm, members of the Tulare County Regional Auto Theft Task Force (T-RATT), observed a stolen vehicle in the area of Hillman/Prosperity, in the city of Tulare. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and both occupants were detained. During the investigation, over 1000 fentanyl pills and 1 ounce of powdered fentanyl were located packaged for sale. The driver, Bridgett Morel, 43, and the passenger, Margarita Rodriguez, 31, were arrested for numerous narcotic charges, charges related to the stolen vehicle possession, and outstanding warrants. Both suspects were booked at the Tulare County Pre-Trial facility.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: TRATT

Supervisor: Lt. Mike Verissimo L36

