



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

September 26, 2023

Two Men Arrested for Grand Theft Crime Spree at Lowe's and Home Depot

On Thursday, September 21, 2023, the Visalia Police Department Property Crimes Unit was contacted by Lowe's Loss Prevention on South Mooney Boulevard regarding a theft in progress.

When detectives arrived on scene, they contacted 45-year-old Oscar Huerta. Huerta had left the store with over \$2,500 in stolen property. During the investigation, detectives found that Huerta had planned the theft with 38-year-old Jesus Gonzalez.

Detectives attempted to stop Gonzalez in the Lowe's parking lot, but he fled in a vehicle. The two suspects had also committed two additional thefts at the Lowe's located on North Demaree Street in Visalia and in the City of Hanford. Over \$10,000 of stolen property was recovered.

Huerta was booked on Grand Theft and Conspiracy to Commit Grand Theft.

During a follow-up investigation, detectives found that Gonzalez had been involved in several retail thefts of Lowe's and Home Depot stores throughout central and northern California.

Today, Property Crimes Detectives and Officers from the Special Enforcement Unit found Gonzalez in the City of Hanford.

He was taken into custody, and a search warrant was conducted at a home in the City of Lemoore by Visalia Police Department Property Crimes Detectives, Special Enforcement Unit Officers, Narcotic Detectives, and the Lemoore Police Department. Additional stolen property was found from Lowe's and Home Depot during the search warrant. The stolen property recovered is valued at over \$5,000.

Gonzalez was booked on several theft charges, including Grand Theft and Conspiracy to Commit Grand Theft.

Property Crimes Detectives are following up with Lowe's and Home Depot regarding additional thefts that Gonzalez and Huerta have been involved in.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Visalia Police Department at 559-734-8117.

