



**VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**March 13, 2024**

**VPD Special Enforcement Unit Arrests Felon with Handgun and Grenade**

Just after 11:00 a.m., the Visalia PD Special Enforcement Unit conducted a traffic stop in the area of Court Street and Mineral King Avenue. During the stop, officers located a handgun and a hand grenade. The VPD Bomb Squad was called and rendered the hand grenade safe.

37-year-old Rigoberto Benavides was arrested and charged with felon in possession of a destructive device as well as a felon in possession of a firearm and ammo. He was transported and booked into the Tulare County Adult Pre-Trial Facility.

