



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Liz Jones, Public Safety Police & Fire PIO,
Media & Communications Manager
(559) 713-4370 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
Elizabeth.Jones@visalia.city

NEWS RELEASE

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Visalia PD Bust Organized Retail Theft Ring, 12 Arrests Made

Over the weekend the Visalia Police Department H.O.P.E. Team and Commercial Policing Unit conducted a retail theft detail in the City of Visalia. During the detail, officers made 12 arrests and recovered over \$7,500 in property. These arrests included arrests for felony retail theft, robbery, conspiracy, and narcotics related charges. The purpose of these details is to target and reduce organized retail theft which continues to be a problem in our community.

The Visalia Police Department would like to thank our partners in the loss prevention industry for their partnership and unwavering dedication to helping to curb this disturbing trend. We will continue to relentlessly pursue justice on behalf of our businesses who are targeted by these groups.

The following subjects were arrested:

- 1) Michael Vince Ortega (43), of Fresno, was arrested for felony organized retail theft. Ortega was wanted in five counties for large scale thefts.
- 2) Oliver Ortiz (29), of Fresno, was arrested for retail theft and tied to additional thefts in the area as well as in Fresno.
- 3) Joseph Chavez (36), of Visalia, was arrested for retail theft, conspiracy, and possession of a controlled substance.
- 4) Nisha Finney (36), of Visalia, was arrested for retail theft, and conspiracy.
- 5) David Caldwell (53), of Exeter, was arrested for retail theft.
- 6) Lindsay Temple (38), of Visalia, was arrested for armed robbery, and conspiracy.
- 7) Heather Laustin (39), of Visalia, was arrested for armed robbery, and conspiracy.
- 8) Kenna Harris (36), of Fresno, was arrested for felony organized retail theft, conspiracy, and narcotics violations.
- 9) Ashely Burgins (35), of Fresno, was arrested for felony organized retail theft, and conspiracy.



- 10) Destiny Stiles (25), of Fresno, was arrested for felony organized retail theft, and conspiracy.
- 11) Fredy Solorio (35), of Visalia, was arrested for felony organized retail theft, and conspiracy.
- 12) Benito Arzate Jr. (37), of Visalia was arrested for felony organized retail theft, and conspiracy.

