



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

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### **Visalia Police Arrest Three in Major Auto Theft and Firearms Bust**

On May 17, 2024, the Visalia PD Special Enforcement Unit, Narcotics Unit, and the T.R.A.T.T. (Tulare County Regional Auto Theft Task Force) served arrest and search warrants at two locations in Visalia and one in Hanford.

This operation followed a 6-month auto theft investigation by the VPD Special Enforcement Unit. 22-year-old Christopher Anderson, 19-year-old Nathan Olivas, and 23-year-old Jesse Venegas were arrested for Conspiracy, Operating a Chop Shop, Auto Theft, and various firearms charges. This auto theft ring was responsible for the theft, sale, dismantling, and destruction of 13 high-performance vehicles valued at over \$500,000.

During the search, authorities recovered a privately made AR Pistol, high-capacity magazines, a suppressor, and auto theft tools.

“At the California Department of Justice, we are fighting organized crime in the field and in the courtroom,” said Attorney General Rob Bonta. “We will not tolerate theft that endangers our communities. I am thankful for strong partnerships with local law enforcement that make California a safer state. When we work together, we get results.”

The suspects were booked at the Tulare County Adult Pre-Trial Detention Facility.

