



## Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



### Chief Art de Werk

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### Kidnapping; Suspects Taken Into Custody

Ceres, California - On 10-18-11, at 09:30 PM, a 23 year old Latino man from Ceres sat in his car in the 2500 block of Sixth Street, waiting for his friends. Two Latino males, who were later identified as a **14 year old juvenile** out of Ceres and **Jesus Rodriguez**, who is 20 years old from Los Banos, approached the victim. It is alleged that an assailant pointed a gun at the victim and took his wallet and property.

The assailants ordered the victim to sit in the backseat of his car at gunpoint. Then drove to the area of Central and Don Pedro, keeping the victim at bay by pointing a handgun at his chest. The victim was then ordered out of the car and the suspects drove away from the scene, leaving him unharmed.

At 05:17 AM, a Ceres officer located the victim's car in the area of Second Street and Magnolia Avenue occupied by two individuals. As the officer conducted an enforcement stop, the male driver, Jesus Rodriguez, and a female passenger, **Monica Vargas** (25 years old out of Ceres), ran from the vehicle while it was still in motion. The vehicle collided into the wrought iron fence of the Ceres High School at Second Street and Whitmore Avenue.

Monica Vargas was apprehended but the male fled from the area. A perimeter was set up with the assistance of the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office to prevent Jesus from escaping.

Officers discovered that Monica lived in the immediate area and responded to her residence on Third Street, where officers located the 14 year old juvenile and Jesus Rodriguez. Both individuals matched the description of the kidnappers and it was determined the 14 year old juvenile and Jesus Rodriguez were responsible for the kidnapping. The 14 year old juvenile was booked into the Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall. Jesus was booked at the Stanislaus County Jail.

A search warrant was served at Monica's residence this afternoon where investigators located a gun replica with its red safety tip painted black. The gun replica was determined be the gun used in the kidnapping.

The **14 year old juvenile** and **Jesus Rodriguez** are facing charges of kidnapping, carjacking, and conspiring to commit a crime. Jesus Rodriguez is on felony probation and also had an outstanding arrest warrant for felony domestic violence.

**Monica Vargas** is facing charges of being in possession of stolen property, delaying or obstructing a police officer in the course of the investigation, and is on felony probation. Monica had an outstanding arrest warrant for possession of narcotics.

This investigation is ongoing and detectives are asking anyone with any information about this case to contact the Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers at:

**Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.**

**Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME**

**Text Tips: "274637" with TIP704 in the wording**

**Website: [www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers](http://www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers) or Detective Derek Perry at (209) 538-5730.**