



Chowchilla Police Department

Jay A. Varney, Chief of Police
122 Trinity Avenue, Chowchilla, California 93610



Press Release

On August 27, 2008, at approximately 12:09 p.m., Chowchilla Police Officer Manuel Ramirez made a vehicle stop for a minor traffic violation. This vehicle stop resulted in the recovery of approximately \$9,200 dollars in stolen property over the following two days.

According to Sgt. Dave Riviere, the vehicle was stopped in the area of Kites Way and Myer Drive for an equipment violation. Officer Ramirez contacted the driver, Jamie Lima, a 32-year-old Chowchilla resident, who was found to be driving on a suspended driver's license. Lima was arrested.

The passenger, Roel Soliz, a 44-year-old Chowchilla resident, was also arrested for possessing nearly one-pound of unprocessed marijuana.

While conducting an inventory of the vehicle prior to towing it, Sgt. Riviere and Officer Ramirez located a number of personal items belonging to a resident living in the 600 block of Ventura Avenue. Further investigation revealed the house had recently been burglarized and the victim of the burglary was not aware of it yet.

The following day, Sgt. Riviere was investigating a run away juvenile case in the 500 block of N. Sixth Street. This investigation led to recovering additional stolen property from the Ventura Avenue burglary, approximately three grams of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia used to smoke methamphetamine, as well as identifying another suspect in the burglary case.

Sgt. Riviere said investigation and follow up on the case was a City of Chowchilla team effort. "Officer Ramirez's vehicle stop led to Officer Hormel and Sgt. Mendoza investigating the burglary. Campus Resource Officer Sanders assisted with the juveniles in this case as well. Public Services provided assistance in transporting the recovered property and Code Enforcement followed up on violations found at the North Sixth Street residence."

Ms. Lima was transported to the Madera County Department of Corrections and booked on charges of burglary, possession of stolen property, and driving on a suspended driver's license. Lima posted bail and was released from jail.

Mr. Soliz was also booked at the Madera County Department of Corrections and booked on charges of possessing more than one ounce of marijuana, cultivating marijuana, transportation of marijuana, and possession of a switchblade knife. Soliz appeared in court and was released on his own recognizance.

Sgt. Riviere said "The officers I work with are very diligent in finding those responsible for crime in our city." He also thanked the other City departments for their continued support of the Police Department and said "that's why I love working in a small town; the support you get from everyone is unbelievable."

"This case is another example of how paying attention to the small things can lead to solving an important crime" stated Police Chief Jay Varney.

Service & Safety

Office (559) 665-8600 Fax (559) 665-7416
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