



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA  
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.DA.VenturaCounty.gov)

Contact: Joey Buttitta  
Title: Communications Manager/PIO  
Phone: (805) 767-3400  
Email: [Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov)

Approved: SW  
Date: July 16, 2026  
Release No.: 26-092

### Los Angeles Men Charged with Stealing \$105,000 Corvette from T.O. Dealership

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that felony charges have been filed against two Los Angeles men accused of breaking into a Thousand Oaks auto dealership and stealing a 2026 Chevrolet Corvette valued at more than \$105,000. John Lene Ivy (DOB 02/06/1987) and Brandon Montel Taylor (DOB 05/15/1997), both of Los Angeles, are each charged with one felony count of unlawful taking of a vehicle and one felony count of second-degree commercial burglary. The men also face several special allegations and aggravating factors, including the loss exceeded \$50,000. Ivy is further charged with a prior strike conviction.

On May 19, 2026, Ivy and Taylor allegedly drove from Los Angeles to Thousand Oaks and broke into the GMC Buick dealership at the Auto Mall during the early morning hours. Once inside, they are accused of stealing a 2026 Chevrolet Corvette valued at more than \$105,000. During the investigation, Ventura County Sheriff's Office detectives were able to identify the defendants. Following surveillance and their arrests, detectives served search warrants at locations in Los Angeles, recovering numerous stolen vehicles from other jurisdictions, including a Lamborghini. The recovered vehicles have a combined estimated value exceeding \$1.3 million. The stolen Corvette taken from the Thousand Oaks dealership has not been recovered.

"The outstanding work of Ventura County Sheriff's detectives not only identified the suspects in this case but also led to the recovery of numerous stolen vehicles connected to crimes in other communities," District Attorney Nasarenko said. "This investigation demonstrates how strong police work and regional cooperation can disrupt organized auto theft rings and protect victims well beyond Ventura County."

Deputy District Attorney Brandon Yeaton, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Auto Theft Unit, is prosecuting the case.

Ivy and Taylor pled not guilty at their arraignment. They are scheduled to return to court for an early disposition conference on August 5, 2026. Over the objection of prosecutors, the court released both defendants on their own recognizance.

**Case: 2026017159**

**Defendant Information:**

John Lene Ivy (DOB 02/06/87)

Montel Brandon Taylor (DOB 05/15/97)

Los Angeles

**Charges:**

- VC 10851(a) – Unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle
- PC 459 – Second degree commercial burglary

**Special allegations:**

- PC 12022.6(a)(1) - Excessive loss over \$50,000
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism
- CRC 4.421(a)(9) – The crime involved an attempted or actual taking of great monetary value
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- PC 667S2 – Prior strike (Ivy)
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony (Ivy)