



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Fremont Man Charged in Elder Fraud Computer Scam

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Ze Li (DOB 04/10/91), of Fremont, was charged with stealing \$20,000 from an elderly Ventura County resident as part of an alleged computer fraud scam. Li is charged with one felony count each of grand theft, theft from an elder or dependent adult, attempted grand theft, attempted theft from an elder or dependent adult, and two counts of conspiracy to commit a crime. The charges include special allegations that the victim was particularly vulnerable and that the manner in which the crimes were carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism.

Li was arraigned on August 31, 2026, and pleaded not guilty to all charges.

On August 4, 2026, an elderly Ventura County resident received a pop-up message on his computer instructing him to call “Microsoft.” After calling the number, the victim was transferred through several unidentified individuals before speaking with a person identifying himself as “Damian Myers.”

Myers allegedly told the victim that someone had made a \$25,000 fraudulent charge from his Ventura County Credit Union account to purchase child pornography in China. Myers claimed the transaction had been stopped but told the victim he needed to withdraw \$25,000 in cash to protect his funds. All of these claims were false.

Following Myers’ instructions, the victim withdrew \$20,000 in cash from two credit union branches. He also purchased \$5,000 in gift cards. Myers then instructed the victim to package the \$20,000 in cash because a “Federal Trade Commission representative” would meet him to collect the money.

On August 5, 2026, Li allegedly met the victim at a Ventura location and accepted a package containing \$20,000 in cash before leaving the area. The victim subsequently became suspicious and reported the incident to law enforcement.

Myers continued contacting the victim in the days that followed. On August 26, 2026, Myers again contacted the victim who immediately notified law enforcement.

On August 27, 2027, detectives with the Ventura Police Department's Street Crimes Unit, with assistance from District Attorney's Office Investigators, conducted an operation in which Li was allegedly lured back to Ventura under the belief that he was picking up another \$20,000 in cash from the victim. Li allegedly met with the victim and accepted a package he believed contained \$20,000 in cash. Li was taken into custody shortly afterward.

Investigators believe Li acted as a courier to pick up stolen funds for fraudsters operating outside Ventura County who target elderly residents through computer scams. Law enforcement encourages anyone who believes they are victim of a similar scam to report it to police by calling District Attorney Investigator Eric Jensen at 805-662-1750.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Dominic Kardum, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Fraud Technology Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case.

The District Attorney's Office urges all Ventura County residents, especially seniors and their families, to be aware of these common computer scam warning signs:

- **Urgency:** "You must act right now!"
- **Secrecy:** "Don't tell anyone!"
- **Fear:** Threats that you will be arrested, sued, or lose your money if you do not comply.
- **Unusual payment methods:** Requests for gift cards, cryptocurrency, gold, wire transfers, or cash pickups.
- **Isolation:** Instructions not to contact your bank, family members, or law enforcement.

Li is currently in custody with bail set at \$250,000. His next court appearance is for a bail review hearing on September 4, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

Case: 2026023945

Defendant Information:

Ze Li (DOB 04/10/91)

Fremont, California

Charges:

- PC 487(a) – Grand theft
- PC 368(d) – Theft from elder or dependent adult
- PC 182(a)(1) – Conspiracy to commit a crime
- PC 664/487(a) – Attempted grand theft personal property
- PC 664/368(d) – Attempted theft from elder or dependent adult

Special allegations:

- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism



The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 300 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.