



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Stephanie Horlick  
Title: Deputy District Attorney  
Phone: (805) 654-3148  
Email: [Stephanie.Horlick@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Horlick@venturacounty.gov)

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### Ventura Men Held to Answer on Robbery, Carjacking and Kidnapping Charges in Gang-Related Case

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Jose Valencia-Rios (DOB 04/30/05) and Aaden Gutierrez Diaz (DOB 09/01/06), of Ventura, were held to answer on felony charges following a multi-day preliminary hearing in Ventura County Superior Court. Valencia-Rios and Gutierrez Diaz are charged in connection with the robbery, carjacking, and kidnapping of a victim allegedly committed for the benefit of a gang.

On March 25, 2026, at approximately 2:43 a.m., Valencia-Rios, Gutierrez Diaz, and other individuals allegedly approached a victim who was alone and took his cellular phone, keys, and wallet. Valencia-Rios, Gutierrez Diaz and their associates entered the victim's vehicle. When the victim attempted to prevent them from fleeing, they allegedly forcefully pulled him into the vehicle, closed the door, and drove away. A short distance later, they pushed the victim out of the vehicle and fled with his car.

Valencia-Rios, Gutierrez Diaz and their associates allegedly drove into rival gang territory, recorded, and posted social media videos. At approximately 7:53 a.m., law enforcement apprehended Valencia-Rios and Gutierrez Diaz in the stolen vehicle. Gutierrez Diaz was driving and allegedly had the victim's credit card, a black glove, and a black ski mask in his possession.

Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Horlick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Gang Unit, is prosecuting the case.

Valencia-Rios and Gutierrez Diaz are scheduled to be arraigned on the information on November 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Valencia-Rios remains out of custody on bond, while Guitierrez Diaz remains released on his own recognizance.

**Case #: 2026007991**

**Defendant Information:**

Jose Valencia-Rios (DOB 04/30/05)

Ventura

Aaden Gutierrez Diaz (DOB 09/01/06)

Ventura

**Charges:**

- **PC 211 – Robbery**
- **PC 215(a) – Carjacking**
- **PC 207(a) – Kidnapping**
- **PC 186.22(a) – Participation in a Criminal Street Gang**

**Special allegations:**

- PC 186.22(b)(1)(C) – Violent Felony Street Gang Activity
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- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim Was Vulnerable
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