



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
**District Attorney**

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Approved: LOL  
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**Charges Filed in Identity Theft at Westlake Village Target**

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Lorena Espinoza (DOB 08/14/75), of Chile, Esmeralda Lozano (DOB 06/13/92), of Pacoima, and Valdebenito Zenteno (DOB 02/25/91), of Chile, all suspected members of a South American Theft Group, have been charged with felony conspiracy to commit identity theft. Additionally, Lozano and Zenteno have been charged with felony forgery.

On May 26, 2022, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Espinoza, Lozano, and Zenteno stole the victim's wallet from her shopping cart at the Thousand Oaks Target and subsequently traveled to the Westlake Village Target, where they attempted to use the victim's credit cards for fraudulent transactions. The transactions were declined. Ventura County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Espinoza, Lozano, and Zenteno after they exited Target. Deputies recovered identifications bearing forged government seals from Lozano and Zenteno.

On May 31, 2022, Espinoza, Lozano, and Zenteno appeared for arraignment in the Ventura County Superior Court and pled not guilty. Each defendant has an early disposition conference set for June 9, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12, and a preliminary hearing set for June 13, 2022, at 8:15 a.m. in courtroom 14. Espinoza, Lozano, and Zenteno are currently in custody with bail set at \$250,000 each.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 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.