

# Ventura County District Attorney's Office



California Highway Patrol

## News Release



March 3, 2023

### Four Men Arrested for Ventura County Fairgrounds Burglary

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and the California Highway Patrol are announcing that four men have been arrested for burglarizing the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

On August 10, 2022, a burglary occurred at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. Over \$500,000 in cash was stolen from the administration building, according to the CHP. After an extensive investigation, CHP officers served four simultaneous search warrants in Los Angeles County.

Alexander Piceno (DOB 02/07/95), of Baldwin Park, Rafael Morales (DOB 10/24/66), of La Puente, Carlos Aranda (DOB 02/26/79), of Los Angeles, and Jesus Rios (DOB 03/12/67), of El Monte, were arrested on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

"Yesterday's successful operation shows the strength of the CHP's investigative teams in collaboration with our county, state, and federal partners, and I thank them for their support," said CHP Coastal Division Special Services Unit Lieutenant Eric Zivic. "I especially want to highlight the bravery of the officers involved. The CHP will continue to take the lead in investigating crimes that occur within state jurisdiction."

On Monday, March 6, 2023, the four men will be charged with theft of public money, burglary, grand theft, and conspiracy. If convicted of all charges, the men could be sentenced to prison for up to 5 years 4 months.

"Since last summer, the public has been demanding answers for this burglary at our fairgrounds and thanks to the tireless work of the California Highway Patrol, these four men were found, apprehended and arrested," said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "Our office will be filing four felony counts against the defendants and we look forward to bringing these men to justice."

Morales, Rios, and Aranda are being held on \$1 million bail. Piceno has bail set at \$500,000. The court has ordered no bail can be posted without proof that the funds do not come from criminal activity.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Marc Leventhal, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit, is assigned to the case.

The men are scheduled for arraignment on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

**Defendant Information:**

Alexander Piceno (DOB 02/7/95)  
Baldwin Park  
Case: 2023005126

Rafael Morales (DOB 10/24/66)  
La Puente  
Case: 2023005128

Carlos Aranda (DOB 02/26/79)  
Los Angeles  
Case: 2023005137

Jesus Rios (DOB 03/12/67)  
El Monte  
Case: 2023005142

**Charges:**

- PC 424 - Theft of public money
- PC 459 - Burglary
- PC 487 - Grand theft
- PC 182 - Conspiracy

**Media Contact Information**

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