



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Drug Traffickers Charged for the Transportation of Fentanyl for Purposes of Sale

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against Brian Rangel (21, of Everett, Washington) and Martin Velazquez (29, of Lynnwood, Washington), for their involvement in transporting fentanyl and being in unlawful possession of firearms.

It is alleged that on August 15th, 2022, a Fresno County Sheriff's Deputy performed a traffic stop on a car near Interstate 5 and Russell Avenue in Firebaugh that contained defendants Rangel and Velazquez. Both Rangel and Velazquez are felons with previous convictions in the State of Washington. Once the Sheriff deputy was able to search the vehicle, he discovered them to be in possession of two firearms, one of which had been reported stolen. In addition to the firearms, there were three altered fire extinguishers in the vehicle that were filled with varying amounts of fentanyl laced pills that weighed in excess of 15 pounds.

The Felony Complaint filed in the Superior Court alleges that Brian Rangel committed:

1. One (1) Count of TRANSPORTATION OF FENTANYL FOR PURPOSES OF SALE ACROSS NON-CONTIGUOUS COUNTY [H&S §11352(b)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of PERSONALLY ARMED WITH A FIREARM [PC §12022(c)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of POSSESSING OF OVER 4KG [H&S §11370.4(a)(2)]
2. One (1) Count of TRANSPORTATION OF FENTANYL FOR PURPOSES OF SALE [H&S §11352(a)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of PERSONALLY ARMED WITH A FIREARM [PC §12022(c)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of POSSESSING OF OVER 4KG [H&S §11370.4(a)(2)]
3. One (1) Count of POSSESSION FOR SALE OF FENTANYL [H&S §11351]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of PERSONALLY ARMED WITH A FIREARM [PC §12022(c)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of POSSESSION OF OVER (4KG) [H&S §11370.4(a)(2)]
4. One (1) Count of POSSESSION OF FENTANYL WITH A FIREARM [H&S §11370.1(a)]
5. One (1) Count of POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON [PC §29800(a)(1)]
6. One (1) Count of POSSESSION OF A CONCEALED FIREARM IN A VEHICLE [PC §25400(a)(1)]

7. One (1) Count of POSSESSION OF A CONCEALED STOLEN FIREARM IN A VEHICLE [PC §25400(a)(1)]
8. One (1) Count of CARRYING A LOADED FIREARM IN PUBLIC [PC §25850(a)]

The Felony Complaint filed in the Superior Court alleges that Martin Velazquez committed:

1. One (1) Count of TRANSPORTATION OF FENTANYL FOR PURPOSES OF SALE ACROSS NON-CONTIGUOUS COUNTY [H&S §11352(b)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of PERSONALLY ARMED WITH A FIREARM [PC §12022(c)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of POSSESSING OF OVER 4KG [H&S §11370.4(a)(2)]
2. One (1) Count of TRANSPORTATION OF FENTANYL FOR PURPOSES OF SALE [H&S §11352(a)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of PERSONALLY ARMED WITH A FIREARM [PC §12022(c)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of POSSESSING OF OVER 4KG [H&S §11370.4(a)(2)]
3. One (1) Count of POSSESSION FOR SALE OF FENTANYL [H&S §11351]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of PERSONALLY ARMED WITH A FIREARM [PC §12022(c)]
 - o One (1) Enhancement of POSSESSION OF OVER (4KG) [H&S §11370.4(a)(2)]
4. One (1) Count of POSSESSION OF FENTANYL WITH A FIREARM [H&S §11370.1(a)]
5. One (1) Count of POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON [PC §29800(a)(1)]
6. One (1) Count of OCCUPANT WITH A CONCEALED FIREARM IN VEHICLE [PC §25400(a)(3)]
7. One (1) Count of OCCUPANT WITH A CONCEALED STOLEN FIREARM IN VEHICLE [PC §25400(a)(3)]
8. One (1) Count of FELONY CARRYING A LOADED FIREARM IN PUBLIC [PC §25850(a)]

If convicted of all charges and allegations, both Rangel and Velazquez face a sentence of up to 20 years in state prison.

Rangel and Velazquez were arrested on August 15th, 2022, and thereafter booked into the Fresno County Jail. They are scheduled to be arraigned on August 18th, 2022, at 8:30 AM in Department 20 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

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