



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA  
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.vcda.gov)

Contact: Joey Buttitta  
Title: Communications Manager/PIO  
Phone: (805) 767-3400  
Email: [Joey.Buttitta@ventura.org](mailto:Joey.Buttitta@ventura.org)

Approved: SW  
Date: March 21, 2025  
Release No.: 25-036

### Santa Barbara Convicted Felon Held to Answer for Attack on CHP Officer

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Jesse Andrew Mendoza (DOB 02/01/05), of Santa Barbara, was held to answer for the attack on a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer in 2024. Ventura County Superior Court Judge Paul Baelly made the decision on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, following a preliminary hearing. Mendoza is charged with three felonies: assault upon a peace officer, attempted mayhem, and battery upon a peace officer. He also faces four misdemeanors, including escape from arrest, resisting a peace officer, and DUI charges. Special allegations of a prior strike are also alleged in the complaint.

On October 5, 2024, Mendoza was stopped by the CHP for a Vehicle Code violation. After an investigation, the defendant was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. On the way to the California Highway Patrol Station for booking, the defendant escaped his handcuffs and attacked the driving officer. The defendant then ran from the officers before being taken back into custody.

Mendoza had been convicted of assault with a deadly weapon five months prior in Santa Barbara County.

Deputy District Attorney Jillian Ewan, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office DUI Unit, is prosecuting the case.

Mendoza is scheduled for an information arraignment on April 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody at the Ventura County Jail with bail set at \$250,000.

**Case: 2024027164**

**Defendant Information:**

Jesse Andrew Mendoza (DOB 02/01/05)

Santa Barbara

**Charges:**

- PC 245(c) – Assault upon a peace officer
- PC 664/203 – Attempted mayhem
- PC 243(c)(2) – Battery upon a peace officer
- PC 836.6(b) – Escape from arrest
- PC 148(a)(1) – Resist, obstruct, delay of peace officer
- VC 23152(a) – Driving while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage
- VC 23152(b) – Driving with a 0.08% or higher blood alcohol

**Special Allegations:**

- PC 667S2 – Prior strike 2
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony
- PC 667(a)(1) – Serious felony prior