



PRESS RELEASE



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CHP SEIZES 10 POUNDS OF FENTANYL WORTH OVER \$454,000

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. – Two southern California women were arrested in Kern County after a California Highway Patrol (CHP) K9 officer found approximately 10 pounds of suspected fentanyl powder in their vehicle.

On June 7, 2024, at 4:05 p.m., a Central Valley CHP K9 officer conducted an enforcement stop on a 2017 Honda Accord, for a traffic violation on northbound Interstate 5 (I-5), and State Route 223 in Bakersfield.

During the traffic stop, the K9 officer observed several signs within the vehicle suggesting that the women were involved in criminal activity. After obtaining permission to search the vehicle, the officer located a hidden compartment in the dashboard that contained approximately 10 pounds of suspected fentanyl powder worth over \$454,000.

The driver and registered owner Nieli Lugo, 30, and passenger Victoria Olivas, 23, were arrested, and the case was turned over to the Kern County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative team (HIDTA) which is composed of law enforcement personnel from the California Department of Justice, the California Highway Patrol, the Kern County Probation Department, the Kern County District Attorney's Office, the Kern County Sheriff's Office, and the Bakersfield Police Department.

Lugo and Olivas were subsequently booked into the Kern County Jail on the charges of possession of fentanyl for sale, and the transportation of fentanyl across noncontiguous counties.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

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