



Jose Garza, Chief of Police

City of Coalinga

Police Department

270 N. Sixth St.
Coalinga, CA 93210
Phone: (559) 935-1525
Fax: (559) 935-1756
E-Mail: police@coalinga.com

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Date: November 20, 2024

Prepared By/Contact Person: Sean Young, Police Commander

Psilocybin Mushrooms Recovered During Arrest

On 11/16/24 at about 9am, officers initiated a vehicle enforcement stop on a Volkswagen Jetta for a vehicle code violation near the intersection of Polk and Elm. While speaking with the occupants of the vehicle, officers observed signs of criminal activity and asked the driver, identified as Monterey County resident Troy Simons, for consent to search the vehicle. Prior to officers conducting the search, Simons admitted to being in possession of psilocybin mushrooms.

Upon search of the vehicle, officers located over six and a half ounces of psilocybin mushrooms (street value of about \$2,000), two digital scales and a box of individual plastic baggies which is indicative of street level narcotics sales and or distribution. Simons was arrested, transported and later booked into the Fresno County Jail for violations of California Health & Safety Code sections 11391 – transportation of psilocybin mushrooms, 11352(b)(1) – transportation of a controlled substance across county lines, and 11350 – possession of a controlled substance.

During the stop, Coalinga resident Albert Pena Cardona Jr, took it upon himself to drive to the location of the stop and begin recording the stop. While this is not illegal, Cardona put himself into a position that interfered with officers while they were in the performance of their lawful duties. Cardona Jr. was not a part of the stop and was given plenty of opportunities to move to a safe location and continue his recording. Cardona refused to move and was arrested

for violation of California Penal Code section 148(a)(1) – resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer. His vehicle was towed, and he was also transported and booked into the Fresno County Jail.