



**City of Tracy
Police Department**



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2026

SUSPECT ARRESTED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO SERIES OF GROPING INCIDENTS

TRACY, California — Beginning in late April 2026, Tracy Police Department patrol officers began responding to multiple reports of groping incidents occurring within the same general area of Tracy. As officers gathered information from each victim, similarities between the incidents began to emerge. In each case, a male suspect approached women from behind while jogging, groped them, and then fled the area.

Detectives assigned to the General Investigations Unit (GIU) began reviewing the reports and canvassing the surrounding area for surveillance footage that may have captured the incidents. Through their investigation, detectives were able to establish the suspect's direction of travel and narrow down the general vicinity of where he lived.

Working closely with patrol officers and continuing their follow-up investigation, detectives identified Edgar Avalos, a 20-year-old Tracy resident, as the primary suspect. Once Avalos was identified, detectives contacted him as he left his residence. During the contact, Avalos admitted to committing the reported crimes.

Avalos was arrested on August 12, 2026, and booked into the San Joaquin County Jail. The investigation remains ongoing, and detectives are working to determine whether there are additional unreported incidents connected to Avalos.

"We understand that incidents like these can be unsettling our community, and we want residents to know that their safety and well-being remain our priority," said Police Chief Sekou Millington. "Our officers take these reports seriously and are committed to thoroughly investigating them and holding those responsible accountable. We encourage anyone who may have experienced similar behavior, or who has information that could assist with this investigation, to come forward. By working together and looking out for one another, we can help keep Tracy a safe and welcoming community for everyone."

If you believe you may have been a victim or have information that could assist with this investigation, contact Detective James Friend at James.Friend@TracyPD.com or (209) 831-6972. Anonymous tips may also be submitted by calling the Tracy Police Department Tip Line at (209) 831-6TIP or by emailing TracyCrimeStoppers@TracyPD.com.

PHOTO: Edgar Avalos



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