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Founder of Mental Health Startup Arrested After Alleged Arson Attempt and Tesla Crash at California Winery

Incident at Garrod Farms leaves community shaken as authorities investigate motive behind Beri Vikram’s actions and public safety concerns grow

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On Saturday afternoon, an incident at Garrod Farms in Saratoga, California, disrupted the usual calm of the winery and equestrian stable. According to the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, Beri Vikram, 42, of Menlo Park, was confronted by staff after he allegedly attempted to start a fire on the property. Vikram is known as the founder of BetterLYF Wellness, an online mental health platform.

Witnesses reported that after being approached by employees, Vikram threw a wine bottle at staff members before fleeing the scene in a Tesla. Authorities say he then intentionally crashed the vehicle into two parked cars. The impact sent one of the cars over an embankment near the winery.

Law enforcement responded quickly to the scene. Deputies found Vikram locked inside his Tesla and refusing to exit the vehicle. The sheriff's office stated that officers used pepper balls and spray to force him out. After his arrest, Vikram was transported to a local hospital for evaluation.

Following medical clearance, Vikram was booked into jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest. No serious injuries were reported among staff or bystanders during the incident.

Garrod Farms, which operates both as a winery under the name Cooper-Garrod and as an equestrian facility, remained closed for several hours while authorities investigated. The motive behind Vikram's actions has not been disclosed by officials. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the case and has not released further details about possible charges or court dates.

BetterLYF Wellness, the company founded by Vikram, did not respond to requests for comment regarding his arrest or his current status with the organization. The incident has raised concerns among local residents and visitors about safety at public venues in the area.

The sheriff's office has asked anyone with additional information about Saturday's events at Garrod Farms to contact their tip line as they continue their investigation.