

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Update on Downtown Double Homicide, Officer Shot, and Officer-Involved Shooting

San Diego – Two people were shot and killed in their car yesterday morning near the San Diego County Courthouse. Several witnesses observed the suspect fleeing the scene on foot holding a gun. The suspect was located by Port of San Diego Harbor Police Officers a short time later in Little Italy and a gun fight ensued. A Harbor Police Officer was injured by gunfire and is still recovering in the hospital. The suspect was shot and killed. The San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit is investigating.

Double Homicide: On November 13, 2024, at approximately 8:22 a.m., the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) received multiple calls about a shooting at 1300 Union St. Responding officers located two victims suffering from gunshot wounds inside a vehicle. The officers removed the victims from the car and began rendering aid. Unfortunately, both victims were pronounced deceased at the scene.

The victims are now identified as Rachael Martinez, described as a 31-year-old Hispanic female, and Jose Medina, described as a 39-year-old Hispanic male. Martinez and Medina were married. Based on an examination of the scene and available evidence, it appears they were both shot while seated inside their vehicle parked on the west side of the street.

The suspect in this case is now identified as Christopher Farrell, described as a 26-year-old white male. Farrell left the scene northbound on foot. A description of the suspect was aired over the police radio and the police helicopter began broadcasting that description to the public over their loudspeaker. The initial description was a white male wearing a green shirt with blue jeans, hiking boots, and a hat.

Although it was not known during the initial incident, detectives later learned that Farrell reloaded his firearm as he fled the scene on Ash St. They also located and impounded the vehicle he arrived in near Fourth Ave. and Ash St.

Officer Shot / Officer-Involved-Shooting: Just after 9 a.m., near West Juniper St. and Kettner Blvd. (approximately one mile away from the shooting), a civilian witness noticed a male, who later turned out to be Farrell, hiding behind a large electrical box. The witness heard the announcements from the police helicopter and believed this was the male being sought by the police. The witness flagged down Harbor Police Department patrol units driving in the area to report what he had seen.

Four Harbor Police officers approached the location and contacted Farrell who was still positioned behind the electrical box. Based on evidence gathered, it appears Farrell was using the electrical box as a shield and pointing the gun towards several officers. Farrell fired at officers striking one Harbor Police officer in the hip. He also struck a Harbor Police patrol car twice. Two officers fired at Farrell striking him multiple times. The entire incident, from the time officers addressed Farrell to the shooting lasted less than a minute and a half.

Farrell was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. He was struck multiple times in the upper torso, but the extent of his injuries will have to be determined by the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office. At the scene behind the electrical box, detectives found a semi-automatic handgun, multiple expended casings, multiple folding knives, a knife sheath on the belt of his pants, a holster, a black tactical flashlight, three magazines clipped to his pants pocket, and an empty magazine on the ground.

The Harbor officers who fired their weapons are both assigned to patrol. They have been employed by the Harbor Police Department for approximately nine and six years.

The officer who was injured was rushed to a local hospital for treatment where he remains recovering. He did not fire his weapon during this incident. The officer has been employed by Harbor Police since September 2024 and was previously employed by San Diego Police Department for approximately one year.

The investigation and review process for officer-involved shootings is extremely thorough. This investigation will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officers bear any criminal liability for their actions. The Harbor Police Department will conduct an administrative investigation into the officers' discharge of their firearms. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office will also be monitoring the investigation.

Additional Information Learned: Family notifications have been made. At this point, the families are asking for privacy as they process the events of yesterday. Since this investigation has begun, detectives have learned additional background information which helps provide context to what occurred.

Rachel Martinez (victim) and Christopher Farrell (suspect) had a prior dating relationship. On October 4, 2024, Martinez filed a police report with San Diego Police accusing Farrell of domestic violence, including false imprisonment and sex crimes. The investigating officers obtained an emergency protective order. They determined that Farrell was a security guard who worked for Inter-Con Security who provides contract security guards for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. They responded to the MTS

office at 1600 Newton and arrested Farrell and booked him into County Jail. Farrell was terminated from employment at that same time and his work firearm was taken from him.

The arrest was assigned to a detective in the San Diego Police Domestic Violence Unit. The detective re-interviewed Martinez and followed up on the case, including consulting with a prosecutor specializing in domestic violence. At the time, the case had insufficient evidence and corroboration to immediately move forward.

On October 7, 2024, Martinez was granted a temporary restraining order against Farrell. It is unclear at this point if Farrell was ever served with the order. The restraining order hearing was continued to November 13, 2024, the date of the double homicide. It appears likely that Martinez and Medina had arrived near the courthouse for the purpose of attending the restraining order hearing.

Detectives continue to investigate this case -- gathering information, searching for evidence, and talking to witnesses. This remains an extremely active and ongoing investigation. Anyone with information regarding this case is encouraged to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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