

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 11, 2024

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Police Investigate Death of Male in Downtown, Two Arrests Made

San Diego – On March 21, 2024, at approximately 6:19 a.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a call from a citizen reporting a battery of a transient male in the area of 900 4th Avenue in the Gaslamp Quarter of Downtown San Diego. Officers from Central Division and medics from the San Diego Fire Rescue Department were dispatched and arrived within minutes. Upon arriving, they located an unresponsive male on the sidewalk suffering from an apparent head injury. At the time, the injuries were not considered life threatening and the male was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Patrol Officers conducted a preliminary investigation into the battery on the male and the case was forwarded to Neighborhood Policing Division for investigative follow-up.

On March 29, 2024, the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit was informed the male's condition had worsened and unfortunately, he died from injuries that were later attributed to attack that occurred on March 21. At that point, the Homicide Unit assumed responsibility of the investigation into the assault on the male that led to him succumbing to his injuries. Over the past few weeks, Homicide Detectives have worked closely with the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office to determine the circumstances surrounding the death of the male and to identify the suspect(s). During that investigation, Detectives determined the male suffered blunt force trauma to his head during the assault that ultimately caused his death. The victim in this case was identified as Charles Hughes of San Diego. He is described as a 38-year-old white male.

Two suspects were identified in this case. The first suspect was identified as Ashley Bonk of Chula Vista, CA. Bonk is described as a 28-year-old white female. On April 8, 2024, at approximately 7:45 a.m., Bonk was located in front of a business in the 1200 Block of Park Boulevard by an officer from the San Diego Community College District. She was detained at that location and Homicide Detectives were notified. Bonk was subsequently arrested and booked into Las Colinas County Jail for one count of Murder. The second suspect was identified as a 17-year-old Guamanian female. On April 10, 2024, at approximately 4:00 p.m., that suspect was located at 1100 C Street and taken into custody.

without incident. She subsequently will be booked into San Diego County Juvenile Hall for one count of Murder. No further information regarding the juvenile suspect will be released due to her status as a minor. This is an active and ongoing investigation. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the San Diego Police Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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