

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Victim Identified in Redwood Village Stabbing Death

**San Diego** – On Friday, April 19, 2024, at approximately 1:15 p.m., the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Communications Center received a call reporting an assault with a deadly weapon at a gas station in the 5900 block of University Ave. in the Redwood Village neighborhood.

Officers from SDPD's Mid-City Division responded and located a male (hereinafter referred to as the victim) in medical distress in the parking lot of the gas station. Officers rendered aid until paramedics arrived and transported the victim to a local hospital. The victim was pronounced deceased at the hospital with at least one stab wound to his torso. He is described as a 33-year-old Hispanic male. He is now identified as Damien Garcia.

The other person involved in the incident (hereinafter referred to as the suspect) was still at the location when officers arrived. He had non-life-threatening injuries to his head. He was transported to a local hospital for evaluation. The suspect is described as a 33-year-old Hispanic male. The suspect was detained but released pending additional investigation. His name will not be released at this time.

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives continue to investigate the incident. The preliminary information gathered shows the suspect was at the gas station filling up his car. The victim, Garcia, ran up to the suspect from the parking lot and they began having an argument. Detectives believe the two men are only connected through the suspect having previously dated the victim's current girlfriend.

The victim punched the suspect, and they began physically fighting in the parking lot. At one point the victim slammed the suspect to the ground and got on top of him punching him multiple times. The suspect then stabbed the victim with a knife. The two men separated, and the victim walked over to the gas station teller and sat down. The suspect waited by his vehicle until police arrival.

Detectives are currently investigating what led up to the fight and stabbing, and the precise actions of the two men. This will include collecting video evidence, interviewing witnesses, and a detailed examination and analysis of the physical scene.

It is clear there were additional unidentified witnesses that left prior to police arrival. Detectives would like to speak with them. Anyone with information regarding this incident can call the Homicide Unit at 619-531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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