THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: March 7, 2009 (Saturday)
Time: 1430 hours

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Homicide Unit
(619) 531-2275

POLICE INVESTIGATE MURDER IN ENCANTO NEIGHBORHOOD

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating a shooting incident that left one person dead and another injured earlier this morning.

At about 2:25 a.m., police officers received a radio call of a violent disturbance at the 6800 block of Brooklyn Avenue. While en route, the call was updated, indicating that a shooting had occurred and two people were injured by the gunfire. Officers arrived with paramedics and found a Hispanic male victim and a Hispanic female victim suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. Both victims were transported to local trauma centers for emergency treatment. The male victim (26 yrs) was struck in the left arm and is expected to survive his injuries. His identity is not being released at this time. The female victim, identified as Marcella Peraza, 21 was pronounced deceased at 6:47 a.m. as a result of her injuries. Ms. Peraza was a resident of San Diego. An autopsy has been scheduled for tomorrow morning.

The early investigation has revealed that the victims and several others were attending a birthday party at 6847 Brooklyn Avenue. Shortly after 2:00 a.m. a disturbance occurred inside the residence involving several young adult males. One of the involved males was asked to leave the party and he complied. Minutes later, witnesses heard the sound of gunfire coming from outside of the home. Several occupants rushed outside to find both victims wounded by gunfire.

The lone suspect is described as a Hispanic male with short hair (possibly shaved head), wearing an oversized white T-shirt. He was described as being in possession of a rifle, and last seen running westbound on 6800 Brooklyn towards 68th Street. A possible involved vehicle is described as a red compact, last seen southbound on 68th Street towards Imperial Avenue. The motivation for the shooting is not known at this time however it is believed that the suspect was in attendance at the birthday party.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to telephone the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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