



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 30, 2010 (Thursday)

Time: 1500 Hours

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Homicide Unit

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ARREST MADE IN MURDERS OF MONIQUE PALMER AND MICHAEL TAYLOR

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives have arrested a suspect in the December, 2008 murders of high school students Monique Palmer and Michael Taylor.

At the time of their deaths, Monique, 17, was a senior at Lincoln High School and served as the school's chapter president of Students Against Violence Everywhere. She had been accepted to California State University – Los Angeles. Michael, 15, was a freshman at Point Loma High School and was an outstanding football and basketball player.

On Friday night, December 5, 2008, Monique and Michael attended a party in the 5500 block of Churchward Street. While they were at the party, three carloads of suspected gang members showed up and shouted threats at the guests. Two suspects pulled out handguns and pointed them at the guests. These threats prompted many guests, including Monique and Michael, to leave.

As Monique, Michael, and several other people walked north on San Jacinto Drive, approaching Groveland Drive, two males approached them and engaged them in conversation. One of the males pulled out a gun and shot Monique and Michael. Monique died at the scene, and Michael died at a hospital approximately 45 minutes later.

Derelle Oliver, 19, and James Tyler, 21, were identified as the suspects who pointed handguns at the party guests. Oliver plead guilty to assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to nine years in prison. Tyler is awaiting trial.

SDPD Homicide Team I and the District Attorney's Gang Prosecution Unit worked together to identify the suspects responsible for killing Monique and Michael. They identified Frederick Cruz, 22, as the person who shot the victims to death.

This morning, detectives transported Cruz from a California state prison to San Diego. He was processed at Headquarters and booked into County Jail for two counts of murder. The investigation continues to identify the second suspect.

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