

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Investigate In-Custody Death at Otay Mesa Port of Entry

San Diego – On January 12, 2022, at approximately 3:21 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center was notified that a person died in the custody of the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP). As with any in-custody death that occurs in the City of San Diego, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit responded to investigate.

At this point, it appears that a male was apprehended by a U.S. Border Patrol Agent on suspicion of entering the United States illegally, possibly by climbing the fences west of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The male was detained without incident or force and transported to a cargo area of the Port for processing. Shortly after arriving at the cargo area, the male went into medical distress. Border Patrol agents, a CBP paramedic, and later San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel conducted life-saving measures on the male. Unfortunately, the male did not survive and was pronounced deceased at the scene. It is undetermined at this point what caused the male to go into medical distress.

The male has been identified, but his name is not being released at this time. He is described as a 38-year-old Hispanic male. He is a Mexican citizen.

One U.S. Border Patrol Agent was involved in the initial apprehension. He has been employed by the agency for eighteen years. His name is not being released at this time.

The investigation and review process for an in-custody death is extremely thorough. When the Homicide Unit completes their investigation, it will be reviewed by the United States Attorney's Office.

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

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