



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 10, 2016 (Wednesday)

Time: 1015 Hours

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Homicide Unit

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POLICE INVESTIGATE CHILDS BODY FOUND IN DUFFLE BAG AT THE SAN YSIDRO PORT OF ENTRY

On Tuesday, August 9, 2016, at approximately 12:00 p.m., the San Diego Police Department was contacted by Mexican Law Enforcement authorities regarding the apprehension of a male who had a deceased child inside a duffle bag.

The San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit responded to the port of entry where they were briefed by the Mexican Law Enforcement authorities. The male was denied entry into Mexico and was turned over to the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Homicide Detectives took custody of the male and the Medical Examiner's office took custody of the deceased child.

The preliminary investigation revealed the male subject attempted to enter Mexico with a female companion. When they were stopped by Mexican Custom agents, the female fled. The male was detained with a duffle bag. An x-ray of the duffle bag revealed a body inside. Further examination of the bag revealed an approximately 2-year-old deceased child inside. A short time later the female was taken into custody by Mexican authorities and turned over to U.S. authorities.

Homicide Detectives interviewed and processed the male and female who were subsequently booked into jail on one count of murder. It has been determined that this incident may have occurred in Whittier, California therefore the San Diego Police Department Homicide Detectives are working closely with detectives of the Whittier Police Department.

The subjects are identified as 39-year-old Johnny Lewis HARTLEY and 43-year-old Mercy Mary BECERRA both from Whittier, California.

Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to call the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit or Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477.

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