

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Lieutenant Steve Shebloski at (619) 531-2275 or sshebloski@pd.sandiego.gov

Victim and Suspect Identified in Murder-Suicide of Male and Female Found in Vehicle at Golden Acorn Casino

San Diego – On Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at approximately 12:25 p.m., officers from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol contacted the San Diego Police Department after locating a vehicle that was associated with a missing persons case from San Ysidro. That vehicle was located in the Golden Acorn Casino parking lot at 1800 Golden Acorn Way in Campo, CA. Within that vehicle was a deceased male and a deceased female.

Detectives from the San Diego Police Department's Southern Division and the Homicide Unit responded to that location and are currently investigating the incident. Detectives from Southern Division have been investigating this incident since the male and female were reported missing by family members last week. The initial investigation indicated the male and female were missing under suspicious circumstances. The exact nature of what occurred and why they were missing is still under investigation.

Detectives have learned the deceased male and female were a married couple living separately, and there was likely a domestic violence incident prior to them being reported missing. When the male and female were found by officers, the male was deceased from what is believed to be a self-inflicted single gunshot wound to the head. The preliminary investigation indicates that his death was a suicide. It has been determined the female died from strangulation. Her death has confirmed to be a homicide with her husband as the lone suspect in what appears to be a tragic case of domestic violence.

The suspect and victim in this case have been identified. The male suspect has been identified as Johnny Soto of San Ysidro. He is described as a 52-year-old Hispanic male. The female victim has been identified as Melissa Soto of San Ysidro. She is described as a 45-year-old Filipina female.

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

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