

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 27, 2023

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Police Investigate Death of an Infant in University City, Arrest Made in Case

San Diego – On Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 10:07 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a call of a non-breathing infant at a townhome located in 3700 block of La Jolla Village Drive. Officers from Northern Division and personnel from the San Diego Fire Department were dispatched to the call and arrived within minutes. Upon arriving, officers contacted the parents of the infant, a 36-year-old Hispanic female and a 37-year-old Hispanic male. The infant was transported by medics to Children’s Hospital for emergency treatment.

During the preliminary investigation, it was determined the infant had sustained serious traumatic internal injuries that were indicative of physical child abuse. Detectives from the San Diego Police Department’s Child Abuse Unit began an investigation into determining who was responsible for the care and custody of the infant and how she sustained her injuries.

On March 21, 2023, due to the severity of the injuries to the infant, the San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit assumed responsibility for the investigation. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of medical personnel, the infant died of her injuries later that day. Over the past several days, San Diego Police Detectives have interviewed witnesses, gathered evidence and worked closely with medical personnel who have specialized training in child abuse-related injuries to determine exactly what occurred. At this time, detectives have learned this incident appears to a tragic domestic-related incident where the infant’s father inflicted the fatal injuries upon his daughter. There are no outstanding suspects and this appears to be an isolated incident.

The deceased female infant has been identified, but her identity is being withheld pending additional family notifications. She is described as a 7-week-old Hispanic female. The suspect in this incident has been identified as the victim’s father, Jaime Santillanes of San Diego. He is described as a 37-year-old Hispanic male.

On March 22, 2023, at 3:15 p.m., Jaime Santillanes was arrested at 4400 Derrick Avenue and booked into San Diego County Jail. He is now facing charges of Murder and Abuse of a Child under 8 Years Old resulting in Death.

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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