

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Investigate Shooting Death of Male at Juneteenth Celebration in Liberty Station Park

San Diego – On Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 6:47 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received numerous calls reporting a shooting at a Juneteenth Celebration that was occurring at NTC park located at 2455 Cushing Road in the Liberty Station neighborhood of San Diego. Officers from Western Division were dispatched immediately and arrived within minutes. Upon arriving, they found a large group of people that were attending the event fleeing the area while at the same time found one male suffering from at least one gunshot wound to his upper body. Officers performed life-saving measures until paramedics from San Diego Fire-Rescue arrived and transported the male to a local hospital for emergency treatment. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of officers and medical personnel, the male was pronounced deceased at 7:24 p.m. During this time, it was discovered there was a second male who had also been shot. This male left in a vehicle and was driven a short distance away before an ambulance was called to treat the male for his injuries. That male was transported to a local hospital with a gunshot wound to his leg. His injuries are not considered life-threatening.

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives were called to the scene and are currently investigating the incident. It is still early in the investigation and little is known about the circumstances leading up to the shooting of the two victims. However, detectives have learned the two victims were attending the celebration when a physical fight broke out within the crowd near the conclusion of the event. Moments after the fight, a suspect took out a handgun and shot both victims before fleeing the scene. It is still being determined if the victims were participants in the fight, were targeted by the suspect for an unknown reason, or if they were innocent bystanders who were struck by gunfire. The preliminary investigation indicates this shooting was an isolated incident related to the fight that occurred. There were numerous persons who were in and around the park that witnessed a portion of the shooting and provided limited descriptions of suspects. Detectives are currently in the process of interviewing those witnesses, gathering physical evidence from the crime scene and checking the area for any surveillance video footage.

The suspect is described as a Black male, mid 20's wearing dark clothing. The deceased male has been identified. His name is not being released at this time pending additional family notifications. He is described as a 20-year-old Black male. The second victim is also described as a 20-year-old Black male. His name will not be released.

Detectives have learned there were numerous persons that fled the area when the shooting occurred. The San Diego Police Department is asking for the public's help with anyone who may have witnessed this incident. 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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