

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Arrest Made in Stabbing Death of Female at Central Avenue Mini-Park

San Diego – On Monday, June 19, 2023, at 8:28 a.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a call of a person down in the area of the Central Avenue Mini-Park located in the 3600 block of Central Avenue in the City Heights Neighborhood of San Diego. Officers from Mid-City Division were dispatched immediately and arrived within minutes. Upon arriving, they found a female suffering from multiple stab wounds to her upper body. Officers performed life-saving measures until paramedics from San Diego Fire-Rescue arrived. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of officers and medical personnel, the female suffered catastrophic injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives were called to the scene and have been investigating this incident throughout the day. Detectives have learned the victim was in the park exercising when the suspect attacked her, apparently without warning. There is no indication there was an altercation before the female was attacked or that she was targeted for a specific reason.

At this early stage in the investigation, the exact motive for the attack is undetermined. This attack appears to be random and unprovoked. Detectives are currently in the process of attempting to locate and interview any potential witnesses, gather physical evidence from the crime scene, and are checking the area for any surveillance video footage.

The victim in this incident has been identified as a 65-year-old Vietnamese female. Her identity is not being released pending family notifications.

Today at 5:20 p.m., detectives located and arrested 23-year-old Hamala Siliveinusi Patafalai at his residence in the 3000 block of 39th Street. Patafalai was arrested for one count of murder and will be booked into San Diego County Jail. Anyone with information regarding this incident or who recognizes this suspect is encouraged to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.