

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SDPD Investigates Assault in the Gaslamp Neighborhood**

San Diego – The San Diego Police Department is dedicated to conducting thorough investigations whenever allegations of a hate crime are brought to our attention. We have received multiple inquiries regarding a man who suffered burn injuries following a confrontation that he has described as a hate crime.

The event took place on June 12th at about 10:41 p.m. in the 900 block of 6th Avenue.

At 10:41 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received 911 calls about a man attacking a pregnant woman in the 900 block of 6th Avenue. Officers were dispatched and arrived within minutes, but the suspect had already fled the scene. Officers spoke with the pregnant woman. They also spoke with witnesses. The pregnant woman was bleeding and was suffering from multiple injuries. Paramedics from San Diego Fire-Rescue transported the pregnant woman to a local hospital for treatment. Officers began an investigation for assault. They searched for the suspect but were unable to find him.

A little more than an hour later at 11:55 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a report of an injured person in the 1200 block of Market Street. A man reported someone had set him on fire about an hour before. Officers were dispatched to this call and arrived within minutes. Paramedics from San Diego Fire-Rescue transported the man to a local hospital for treatment. Investigators determined that this man was the suspect who battered the pregnant woman from the earlier incident at 900 6th Avenue. Simultaneously, officers started a criminal investigation for assault relating to the man's burn injuries. Investigators have since determined the pregnant female was responsible for the burn injuries.

While looking for witnesses and evidence, detectives found security video footage on 900 6th Avenue that captured the incident. The video shows the initial physical assault by the man on the pregnant woman and the subsequent use of fire as a weapon by the pregnant woman on the man.

This is a complex investigation and detectives are examining all aspects and allegations. The San Diego Police Department takes all crimes of violence extremely seriously. We recognize the community's interest in this case and are working to balance transparency with protecting the active criminal investigations.

SDPD believes this was an isolated event and that there is no active threat to the community. We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as detectives conduct a comprehensive investigation.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call SDPD or Crime Stoppers.

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