

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

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## **Investigation of San Diego Sheriff In-Custody Death in Vista**

**San Diego** – On March 2, 2024, at approximately 11:55 p.m., deputies from the San Diego Sheriff's Department North County Coastal Patrol Station responded to a call of a suspicious person in the 800 block of Birmingham Dr. in Cardiff, CA. The reporting party stated that a Black male in his 30's was crawling around the parking lot with no shirt and no shoes. When deputies arrived, they located the subject of the radio call, evaluated him, and placed him under arrest for being under the influence of a controlled substance. The male was taken into custody without incident.

The male was transported to the Vista Detention Facility. Prior to being booked into jail, the male began throwing himself against the interior of the patrol car, causing injury to his face. The male also moved his handcuffs to the front of his body. Deputies requested paramedics, then had the male exit the car, fix his handcuffs, and sit down on a bench. Shortly after that, the male stood up and then began kicking and flailing against deputies trying to control him. Deputies requested additional assistance and then applied a WRAP restraint device to the male. Deputies monitored the male until paramedics arrived. After paramedics arrived, the male experienced a medical emergency and went unconscious and stopped breathing. Paramedics began life saving measures and transported the male to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased at approximately 4 a.m.

The male has been tentatively identified. Detectives will work with the San Diego County Medical Examiner to confirm his identity.

The deputies that were involved in this incident are assigned to various units in the San Diego Sheriff's Department, including North County Coastal Patrol Station, Vista Patrol, Vista Detention Facility, and Juvenile Court Services.

Per the Countywide Memorandum of Understanding, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit was called to the scene to conduct the in-custody death investigation. Detectives responded to Vista to gather evidence, interview witnesses, and examine the circumstances that led up to the medical emergency.

The investigation and review process for in-custody deaths are extremely thorough. When the SDPD Homicide Unit completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officers bear any criminal liability for their actions. The San Diego Sheriff's Department will conduct an administrative investigation into the deputy's actions. The Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) will conduct a review of the incident and provide any appropriate recommendations. The Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office will also be monitoring the investigation.

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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