

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man Arrested in Mt. Hope Homicide

San Diego — A man was killed after interrupting a fight between his nephew and three other men near his apartment complex.

On Sunday, August 16, 2026, just before 11:00 P.M., San Diego Police received a report of a person down on the 3500 block of Island Avenue in San Diego. Upon officers' arrival, they located the 46-year-old male victim lying on the ground with blunt force injuries to his head. The man was transported by medics to a local hospital but did not survive his injuries.

Officers learned the suspect fled the scene prior to their arrival. The Homicide Unit was notified and is handling the investigation. At this time, it appears the victim had interrupted a fight between four men near his apartment complex. The fight involved his nephew and another resident of the apartment complex, and two others. When the victim stepped outside, he was struck on the head at least twice with a blunt object by the neighbor, who then fled the scene in a vehicle.

Investigators have identified 36-year-old Hector Esquivel as a suspect in the fatal assault. On August 17, 2026, at about 3:00 PM, he was located and arrested on the 300 block of H Street in Chula Vista. Esquivel was processed by detectives and then booked into County Jail on one count of murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon.

Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to contact the San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2315 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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