

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 3, 2026

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Victim Identified in Fatal Hatchet Attack

San Diego – On Monday, August 31, 2026, at about 4:50 P.M., San Diego Police received multiple reports of a man being attacked with a hatchet near the intersection of Santa Fe Street and Damon Street. Officers arrived and located the victim on the street with multiple lacerations to the head. He is now identified as 69-year-old David Bugaj of San Diego. Bugaj did not survive his injuries.

Officers learned the suspect was likely inside a travel trailer parked nearby. The officers surrounded the trailer and called out for any occupants to exit. Larry Raymond Rodriguez, 39, exited the trailer and was taken into custody without incident. He is currently in custody at county jail for murder. A young female juvenile was also inside the trailer and is currently in protective custody. Investigators have confirmed the girl is Rodriguez' daughter.

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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