



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 31, 2008 (Saturday)

Time: 1445 hours

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Homicide Unit

(619) 531-2275

POLICE INVESTIGATE BEATING DEATH IN PACIFIC BEACH

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating the death of a 25-year-old male who was attacked one week ago, during the early morning hours of Saturday, May 24, 2008.

On May 24, 2008, at about 2:20 a.m., Nathaniel Ward, 25, was exiting a cab near his home in the 4400 block of Bond Street, when the male suspect exited his vehicle and approached Ward and his three male companions. The suspect (described as African American, 6'2", 220 lbs) began to argue about a "near traffic accident" that took place a few blocks from Ward's residence. The suspect punched Ward and his male friend in the face causing both victims to fall to the ground. The suspect then fled the scene in a silver colored Scion vehicle. Paramedics transported Nathaniel Ward to a local hospital, where his condition deteriorated throughout the week. Mr. Ward died on Thursday May 29th, at 10:20 a.m. The second victim was also transported to a local hospital where he was treated and released for minor injuries related to the assault.

The Homicide Unit is coordinating its investigation with Northern Division. The suspect in the murder of Mr. Ward has been identified as 35-year-old Sam Bonsu of San Diego. Bonsu is cooperating with authorities but has not yet been arrested. An autopsy performed today has ruled the death as a homicide.

This investigation is on-going. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2294 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-TIPS.

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