



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 23, 2009 (Thursday)

Time: 1030 hours

CONTACT: Lieutenant Terry McManus

Homicide Unit

(619) 531-2275

POLICE IDENTIFY MISSION BAY PARK SUICIDE VICTIM

(San Diego) The San Diego Police Department has identified the suicide victim discovered earlier this week at 4600 Friars Road as 56-year-old John Richard Kelcher.

On July 20 at 8:24 p.m., police officers from Northern and Western Divisions received a radio call to meet with a citizen who came across a deceased male in the brush area on the north bank of the San Diego River at 4600 Friars Road. The reporting party and his friend were walking on the sidewalk adjacent to the river looking for a suitable location to begin fishing. They discovered Mr. Kelcher in the heavy vegetation south of Friars Road between the sidewalk and the river. After their discovery the two citizens walked to the intersection of Friars Road and Sea World Drive where they notified the police department.

Police officers and an investigator from the Medical Examiner's Office arrived to examine the decedent and determined that he had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head. The Homicide unit was requested and immediately initiated an investigation to identify the circumstances that led to the shooting. An autopsy performed yesterday confirmed that Mr. Kelcher died as a result of the gunshot wound. No other injuries and/or trauma were identified during the autopsy.

The motivation for the suicide has not been determined at this point in the investigation. Detectives will continue to communicate with family members in an effort to reveal motivating factors. Anyone with information is asked to call the San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293.

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