



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Homicide Unit

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ARREST MADE IN MURDER OF JOANNA VARGAS

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives have arrested the suspect in the August 27 murder of 15-year-old Joanna Vargas in a Clairemont Mesa park.

On Friday, August 27, at approximately 1:15 a.m., Joanna and three friends were at Lindbergh Park, 4100 Ashford Street, when a previously-unknown person fired a weapon at them, killing Joanna.

The five-week investigation included multiple appeals for information through Crime Stoppers and the media and vigils organized by family, friends, and community members outraged by Joanna's murder.

Detectives solved the case and identified the shooter as Luis Francisco Barron, 19. Until recently, Barron was living in the neighborhood where the murder occurred.

Yesterday, a judge signed an arrest warrant charging Barron with Joanna's murder. Believing Barron was in Mexico, the Homicide Unit coordinated its efforts with the department's Criminal Intelligence/Mexico Liaison Unit. Yesterday afternoon, at 5:00 p.m., Mexico Liaison Unit detectives, assisted by Mexico's State Preventive Police, located Barron in public in the Colonia Obrera neighborhood of Tijuana. State Preventive Police took Barron, a United States citizen, into custody. The deportation process took until this afternoon, and at about 1:00 p.m., Barron was released to detectives at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

The SUV sought in connection with the murder has also been located, and the investigation continues regarding other occupants of the vehicle at the time of the murder.

Detectives processed Barron at Headquarters, and booked him into County Jail for one count of murder.

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