



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 3, 2012 (Wednesday)

Time: 1600 Hours

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Homicide Unit

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POLICE INVESTIGATE DEATH IN PARADISE HILLS

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating the death of a man outside his residence in Paradise Hills.

Today, at approximately 10:34 a.m., officers were dispatched to a residence in the 5500 block of Potomac Street regarding shots fired in the area and a male down in the front yard of a house. Officers found a 54 year old male in the front yard of a residence suffering from what appeared to be at least one gunshot wound. Officers immediately began resuscitative efforts and summoned paramedics. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A 75 year old male, identified as Thomas Bethel, was detained outside the residence. Bethel is the stepfather of the deceased. Bethel was suffering from a traumatic injury to his head. He was transported to the hospital and treated for his injuries. He was released from the hospital and questioned by detectives.

Detectives determined Bethel armed himself with a firearm and went to his stepson's residence to confront him about vandalism to a vehicle owned by Bethel which occurred the previous day. The deceased male attacked Bethel with a crowbar striking him in the head. Bethel then shot the male.

Thomas Bethel was booked into San Diego County Jail for murder.

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