



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 25, 2012 (Sunday)

Time: 1000 Hours

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Homicide Unit

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POLICE INVESTIGATE MURDER AT SAN DIEGO COUNTY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating the murder of a patient at San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital in the Midway District.

On Saturday, March 17, at 2:50 p.m., San Diego Police officers were dispatched to a trauma center to evaluate the injuries of a patient injured at San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH, 3853 Rosecrans Street) approximately 50 minutes earlier. The victim arrived at the hospital in cardiac arrest, suffering from severe head injuries.

The investigation revealed that the victim (Robert King, 53) and suspect (Bart Schafer, 32) shared a room at SDCPH. At 2:00 p.m., Schafer came out of their room and told staff that King had fallen. Paramedics responded to a medical aid request, began CPR, and transported King to the trauma center. SDCPH staff called San Diego Police and asked that officers evaluate King's injuries. Officers responded to the trauma center and SDCPH, investigated the incident, and arrested Schafer for attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

On March 20, when doctors opined that King would not survive, the Homicide Unit assumed responsibility for the investigation. On March 21, Schafer was arraigned in San Diego Superior Court, and he is currently in custody at San Diego County Jail.

King died at 10:40 p.m. last night. Schafer's charge will be upgraded to murder.

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