



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 6, 2015 (Friday)

Time: 2030 Hours

CONTACT: Lieutenant Paul Rorrison

Homicide Unit

(619) 531-2425

POLICE ARREST THIRD SUSPECT IN 2001 ENCANTO HOMICIDE

On January 28, 2001, Alexander Ceballos was seated in his parked vehicle in the 900 block of Merlin Drive when his companion, who was outside of the vehicle, became involved in a confrontation with two Hispanic males. One of the Hispanic males then pulled out a gun and began firing at Ceballos and his companion. Ceballos tried to drive away, but was struck by gunfire and he crashed his vehicle into a nearby building. Ceballos later died from his wounds. The case was investigated by the San Diego Police Homicide Unit, but remained unsolved for many years.

San Diego Police Cold Case Homicide Detectives recently resumed the investigation and received additional information which identified the suspects in the murder of Alexander Ceballos. Based on this new information, detectives, in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, conducted extensive investigative follow-ups to bring forward a prosecutable case.

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, a warrant was issued in San Diego Superior Court for the arrest of 37 year old Christopher Aranda in connection with the murder of Alexander Ceballos. San Diego Police Homicide Detectives and U.S. Marshals from the West Valley Violent Offender Task Force located Aranda in Phoenix Arizona and placed him under arrest for murder.

On Friday, November 6, 2015, Christopher Aranda was transported back to San Diego and was booked into County Jail. Aranda has been charged with murder and is scheduled to be arraigned in San Diego Superior Court on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

32-year-old Jose Samaniego and 37-year-old Enrique Palomino have already been charged with the murder of Alexander Ceballos and are currently in custody at the San Diego County Jail.

Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to call the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit or Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477.

.....

###