

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, April 6, 2023

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**Arrests Made in Shooting Death of Male in Park Behind North Clairemont  
Recreation Center**

**San Diego** – On February 19, 2023, at 11:50 a.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received multiple calls reporting shots being fired in the park behind the North Clairemont Recreation Center located in the 4400 Block of Bannock Avenue. Officers from Northern Division were dispatched and arrived within minutes. Upon arriving, they found a male in the grassy area of the park suffering from multiple gunshot wounds to his upper body. Officers performed life saving measures until paramedics from San Diego Fire-Rescue arrived and transported the male to a local hospital. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of officers and medical personnel, the male was pronounced deceased at 2:51 p.m. That male was later identified as Cesar Lopez-Sandoval.

San Diego Police Homicide Detectives have continued to investigate this incident over the past several weeks. During the course of their investigation, detectives have learned Lopez-Sandoval was shot multiple times after a brief physical confrontation with the suspect and his companion. After a lengthy investigation that included interviewing numerous witnesses, collecting and examining several items of evidence and reviewing surveillance video footage from the surrounding area, Detectives identified Julian Vargas of San Diego and a 14-year-old male as the two suspects in this case.

On April 6, 2023, at approximately 7:45 a.m., Vargas was taken into custody in the 8200 block of Camino Santa Fe and arrested per this case. At approximately 9:00 a.m., the 14-year-old male was taken into custody in the 4400 block of Mt. Foraker Avenue and arrested per this case. Vargas was booked into San Diego County Jail while the 14-year-old male suspect was booked into San Diego County Juvenile Hall, each for one count of murder. Vargas is described as a 19-year-old Hispanic male. No further information on the 14-year-old male will be released due to his status as a juvenile.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.