

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Arrests Made In East Village Homicide

San Diego - On Saturday, December 28, 2019 at approximately 7:30 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call from an employee at the Alpha Project of shots heard outside the shelter. Officers were also flagged down by a citizen about the same time regarding multiple shots heard near the Alpha Project at 1700 Imperial Avenue. When police officers arrived on scene, they found an adult male on the sidewalk with multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital but unfortunately succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Investigators from the San Diego Police Homicide Unit were called to the scene to investigate this incident. The victim was identified as 44-year-old Ernest Lee Buchanan of San Diego. Mr. Buchanan was working as a security guard at the Alpha Project however, this incident does not appear to be connected to the Alpha Project shelter. Homicide investigators processed the crime scene for evidence, interviewed witnesses, and collected video footage from the area including from Smart Streetlights. Based on the evidence collected, investigators determined two suspects committed this homicide. The images obtained from the Smart Streetlights were of such quality the investigators were able to identify 47-year-old Floyd Garrett and 40-year-old Johnny Hill as the suspects. Both men are from San Diego.

On January 4, 2020, investigators tracked Garrett to Phoenix, Arizona where he was arrested with the assistance of the Phoenix Police Department. Garrett will remain in custody in Phoenix, pending extradition hearings. Johnny Hill was located in San Diego and arrested by San Diego Police officers today without incident. He was booked into county jail for the murder of Ernest Lee Buchanan.

The San Diego Police Department would like to thank the Phoenix Police Department for their assistance in this case. Without their assistance, and the images obtained from the Smart Streetlights, both suspects would not be in custody.

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

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