

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

CONTACT: Lieutenant Matt Dobbs at (619) 531-2425 or mdobbs@pd.sandiego.gov

Update on Deputy-Involved Shooting Near Central Jail

San Diego – At 5:51 p.m., on May 1, 2020, the San Diego Police Department was made aware of a deputy-involved shooting in the area of Front Street and B Street. San Diego Police Officers responded to the scene and found a 36 year-old man who had sustained at least one gunshot. Life-saving measures had already been initiated. The man was transported to a local hospital where he was unfortunately pronounced deceased.

Investigators from the San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit were called to the scene to investigate the incident. It is still early in the investigation, but the investigators have learned the man had been arrested by California State Parks Rangers for assault with a deadly weapon on one of their employees. The man was being transported to jail by one ranger with a second ranger accompanying them in a separate vehicle. When they arrived outside of the jail, the man was able to free himself from the vehicle. It appears the man was able to slip the handcuffs off of at least one of his wrists and was able to open the door to the vehicle. The second ranger attempted to get out of his vehicle and chase the man, but the man slammed the vehicle door shut on him. Two San Diego Sheriff's Deputies were walking to work and saw what was happening. The deputies began to chase the man, who ran northbound towards vehicles stopped in traffic. At one point, one of the deputies fired at least one round from his service weapon, striking the man.

The deceased man has been identified as 36 year-old Nicholas Peter Bills of San Diego.

The San Diego Sheriff's Deputy involved in the shooting has been identified as 23 year-old Aaron Russell. Deputy Russell has been with the Sheriff's Department for approximately one and a half years.

Since the shooting occurred within the City of San Diego, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit will conduct the investigation. Investigators from the San Diego County Sheriff's

Department will monitor the investigation. When the investigation is complete, it will be turned over to the San Diego County District Attorney's Office for review. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office will also monitor the investigation, as is standard protocol.

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

###