

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Investigate In Custody Death in the Cortez Neighborhood

San Diego – At about 11:48 p.m. on May 8, 2020, the San Diego Police Communications Center received a call about a possible narcotics overdose at 1400 2nd Avenue.

Officers arrived at the location and contacted a 32 year-old man inside his apartment. The man was causing a disturbance, had been in an altercation with another resident and was exhibiting signs of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Medical personnel were called to the location to evaluate the man. Due to the man's erratic behavior, an officer rode in the ambulance with the male.

While being transported to a local hospital, the man went into medical distress and life saving measures were administered by paramedics and the officer. Unfortunately, the man was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Because the man was in police custody at the time of his death, detectives from the Homicide Unit were assigned to investigate the incident. The investigators are conducting a thorough investigation into the facts surrounding the man's death. The Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

The male has been identified but his identity will not be released at this time.

The names of the officers who contacted the male are not being released at this time, however, they have been with the Department for 5 years and 18 months.

The investigation and review process for an in custody death is extremely thorough. When the Homicide Unit completes their investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officers bear any criminal liability for their actions. The Internal Affairs Unit will conduct an investigation to determine if there were any policy violations. The Community Review Board on Police Practices will conduct a review of the incident and provide any appropriate recommendations.

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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