

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Names Released in Homicide and Officer-Involved Shooting

San Diego – At 3:32 p.m. on May 29, 2020, the San Diego Police Communications Center began receiving 911 calls regarding a shooting with a person down in the 3800 block of Euclid Avenue. When the officers arrived on scene, they found a 62 year-old Hispanic male who had sustained at least one gunshot wound. The officers were also directed to an adjacent apartment where the suspect had possibly fled to. The officers were aware of the residence that was pointed out from officer safety information that had recently been put out. The officers evacuated the injured man to a safe area where San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel began treating the man and transported him to a local hospital. Unfortunately, the man succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

The patrol officers established a perimeter around the residence that had been pointed out and began gathering resources to deal with a possibly barricaded murder suspect. As the incident developed, it became clear the resources available to the patrol officers to safely deal with the situation had been exceeded. The assistance of the SWAT Team was requested. As the SWAT officers began arriving and taking over the tactical portion of the incident, the suspect emerged from his apartment. The suspect was given directions to surrender but he refused to cooperate. The suspect walked half way down the stairs towards the officers' positions and challenged them to come get him before retreating back into his apartment.

As the SWAT team began assembling more resources, the suspect again emerged from his residence and began walking down the stairs towards the officers. The suspect again refused to cooperate with the directions being given by the officers. When the suspect had descended half way down the stairs, he extended a pistol in the direction of the officers. Three officers fired their weapons at the suspect, striking him several times. Specially trained STAR medics deployed with the SWAT team to provide aid, but the suspect was pronounced deceased at the scene. A firearm and a knife were recovered

from the scene. Approximately two hours and fifteen minutes had elapsed between the original call and the officer-involved shooting. During that time the officers repeatedly gave the suspect the opportunity to surrender and developed contingency plans in an attempt to take the suspect into custody.

Officer safety information had been relayed to the Mid-City Officers regarding the suspect. The suspect's mother had contacted the police earlier in the week after the suspect threatened her with a firearm and fired several rounds from a handgun in the residence. The mother did not initially notify the police. When the police were finally notified, they began an investigation and were in the process of preparing an arrest warrant and a Gun Violence Restraining Order. The suspect's mother told investigators her son wanted to be involved in a shooting with the police and to commit "suicide by cop".

The victim who died in the initial shooting has been identified as 62 year-old Juan Gudino Lopez of San Diego.

The suspect who died in this incident has been identified as 32 year-old Ronnie Kong of San Diego.

The officers involved in this shooting have been identified as; Christopher Luth of the Canine Unit – a 15 ½ year veteran of the Department, Tony Maraschiello – a 6 ½ year veteran of the Department and Andrew Campbell – a 6 year veteran of the Department. Officers Maraschiello and Campbell are assigned to Northern Division, but were deployed as part of the SWAT Team.

The investigation and review process for an officer-involved shooting 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, and the Shooting Review Board will evaluate the tactics used by the officers. The Community Review Board on Police Practices will conduct a review of the incident and provide any appropriate recommendations. The Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office will also be monitoring the investigation.

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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