

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Subject Identified In Santa Fe Depot Death Investigation

San Diego – At approximately 6:14 p.m. on October 15, 2019, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Communications Center received a request from a Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) dispatcher for urgent help for one of their code compliance officers who was fighting with a male on the Amtrak Coaster platform near the Santa Fe Depot. Several SDPD officers responded to assist and when they arrived, they found the code compliance officer and a MTS security officer with a handcuffed male down on the ground. The SDPD officers noticed the male appeared to be in medical distress. They called for paramedics and began providing first aid until relieved by San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel. The male was transported to a local hospital where he was unfortunately pronounced deceased.

Investigators from the San Diego Police Homicide Unit were called to the scene to handle the investigation. Initial information provided by witnesses and the MTS employees indicate the male was acting erratically and was possibly under the influence. The male was initially contacted when his behavior led the code compliance officer to believe he might walk in front of a trolley or train. When the MTS employees tried to detain the male, he ran approximately 100 yards before surrendering. After being handcuffed, he began struggling with the MTS employees and was taken to the ground at which time they called for assistance from SDPD. The witnesses did not see any use of force by the MTS employees other than trying to hold the male down on the ground as he kicked and screamed.

The deceased male involved in this incident has been identified as 24 year-old Angel Zapata Hernandez, of San Diego.

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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