

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Investigate Possible Overdose Death in City Heights

San Diego- At approximately 6:40 p.m. on February 26, 2019, San Diego Police Officers were dispatched to a check the welfare call at Winona Ave and University Ave. The reporting party stated a black male was running into traffic, acting erratic, and appeared to be under the influence of drugs. An additional caller stated the male was rolling around in the street and a vehicle had hit him. Paramedics were also dispatched.

Two San Diego Police officers located the 44-year old male at 4100 Winona Ave. A citizen who claimed to know the male told the officers the male was under the influence of PCP. The officers observed the male standing in the street with his hand in his mouth. The male attempted to bite his fingers off. The officers tried to verbally calm the male down while they waited for additional officers to arrive before contacting the male. When two additional officers arrived the male threw himself on the ground, and began banging his head on the ground while continuing to bite his fingers.

The officers made contact with the male, and were able to pull his hand out of his mouth and handcuff him. The male continued to bang his head on the ground, and the officers placed the male's shoes under his head to keep him from further injuring himself.

San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel responded to assist. The male was transported to a local hospital by medics. Due to the subject's erratic behavior, an officer rode with medics. While enroute to the hospital the subject went into medical distress, and medics performed life saving measures on him. The male was admitted to the hospital, and he was placed on life-support. On March 2, 2019, the male again went into medical distress and was pronounced deceased.

Due to the seriousness of the male's condition, investigators from the Homicide Unit were assigned to investigate the incident. The investigators are conducting an exhaustive investigation into the facts surrounding the incident. At this point, it appears minimal force was used by officers to handcuff the male and prevent him from hurting himself.

The male has been identified, but his identity will not be released pending further family notification.

The names of the officers involved in this incident are not being released at this time.

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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