

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Suspect Identified in Southcrest Officer-Involved Shooting**

San Diego – On Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at approximately 5:13 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received 9-1-1 calls regarding a violent disturbance in the 4000 block of Boston Avenue. The callers said a male was attacking someone with a machete style weapon.

Patrol Officers from Southeastern Division responded to the area and found a 57 year-old male victim who had sustained injuries consistent with an edged weapon attack. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment. His injuries are not believed to be life threatening.

While investigating the incident, an officer attempted to contact a possible suspect around the corner from the initial scene. The suspect was uncooperative and refused to follow the directions of the officer. The contact escalated to the point where a Taser was deployed – but was not effective – and a San Diego Police Officer fired his weapon, striking the suspect at least once. The suspect was transported to a local hospital for treatment, but unfortunately succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at 7:45 p.m.

The San Diego Police Homicide Unit responded to investigate the shooting. The investigation is in its early stages, but initial witness statements indicate the officer attempted to contact the suspect, who was very uncooperative. The suspect began advancing on the officer while armed with a large metal chain. The officer backed away from the suspect as he gave verbal commands for the suspect to stop and drop the chain. The suspect refused to comply with the officer's commands and began swinging the chain at the officer. The officer fired his Taser at the suspect, but it had no effect. The suspect

continued advancing on the officer while armed with the chain and refusing to comply with his commands. The officer continued trying to maintain distance from the suspect, backing away for a considerable distance while continuing to give verbal commands. At one point, the suspect again swung the metal chain at the officer, prompting the officer to fire his weapon – striking the suspect. Two additional officers arrived and attempted to handcuff the suspect who resisted the officers, but was eventually taken into custody. No officers sustained serious injuries during the incident.

The suspect has been identified as 48 year-old Vaughn Harrison Denham, 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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