

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 26, 2024

CONTACT: Lieutenant Jud Campbell at (619) 533-5752 or campbellj@pd.sandiego.gov

Arrest Made in O'Farrell Homicide with Assistance of ALPR Technology

San Diego – An arrest was made in a recent homicide when ALPR technology helped quickly locate the suspect in Dana Point driving the victim's stolen car.

On August 24, 2024, at approximately 1:53 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a report of a male found deceased in the 6400 block of Madrone Avenue. Family members had gone to check on the male when he did not show up at work. When Southeastern Division officers and paramedics arrived, they located the male inside of his residence with visible trauma to his body. He was pronounced deceased by San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel. The San Diego County Medical Examiner was able to later determine the injuries were stab wounds. The victim is now identified as Francisco Cruz. He is described as a 55-year-old Hispanic male.

San Diego Homicide Detectives were called to the scene to investigate. Based on the preliminary investigation, they believe the suspect was at the victim's house. Detectives are still working to determine how the suspect and victim know each other. At some point, the suspect stabbed the victim to death and then stole the victim's car and fled. The victim's car was quickly placed on the "hotlist" in the Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system.

As Detectives continued to work on processing the scene, they learned that the ALPR system alerted that the vehicle had been flagged in the area of Dana Point. They began coordinating with Orange County Sheriff's Deputies to check the area.

On August 25, 2024 (the next day), at approximately 3:25 a.m. and a mere 14 hours after SDPD responded to the original crime scene, an Orange County Sheriff's Deputy was checking the area of the ALPR hits. He spotted the vehicle in the 34000 block of Doheny Park Road, Capistrano Beach and

initiated a traffic stop. The driver (and sole occupant) of the vehicle fled on foot. He was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit.

The driver was identified as David Nava. He is described as a 22-year-old Hispanic male and a resident of San Diego. Orange County Sheriffs transferred Nava to the custody of the San Diego Police Department. He was booked into San Diego County Jail for murder and vehicle theft. He is scheduled to be arraigned on August 28, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is thanked for their assistance in taking this suspect into custody so quickly.

This is an ongoing 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.

###