

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Police Make Two Arrests After Body Found in Balboa Park

San Diego – Homicide Detectives located a buried body in Balboa Park and, after an extensive investigation, ultimately arrested two men in connection with the case.

On July 25, 2024, the San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit was contacted by a concerned citizen with a tip regarding a body that was possibly buried within the canyon areas surrounding Balboa Park. Detectives from the Homicide Unit were assigned to investigate this tip. Through their initial investigation, they were able to locate a shallow makeshift grave in the canyon hillside adjacent to SR-163 by Richmond Street. Detectives worked with personnel from the Medical Examiner's office and were able to locate a deceased male within the grave site. The male was in a state of decomposition and had likely been there for several weeks.

Detectives worked with the San Diego County Medical Examiner's office to determine the manner and cause of the male's death. The Medical Examiner determined the male had died from gunshot wounds and was the victim of a homicide. The male has been identified as James Garcia. He is described as a 43-year-old White male.

Detectives continued to investigate the case and developed probable cause that the suspect who shot Garcia was Jeffrey Jones. Jones is described as a 41-year-old White male. It is believed Jones shot Garcia at the location his body was found on May 23, 2024, and buried his body. On July 28, 2024, Jones was located on the Cabrillo Bridge in Balboa Park and arrested for a probation violation. On August 3, 2024, detectives booked Jones for the murder.

Detectives also developed probable cause that Brandon Winegarden was an accessory in this case, including helping to bury the body. Winegarden is described as a 28-year-old Black male. On September 18, 2024, at approximately 9:15 a.m., Winegarden was located

by San Diego Police Officers and taken into custody. He was booked into jail for accessory and vehicle theft related charges.

The Homicide Unit continues to investigate this case to develop more information regarding Garcia's death, including clarifying the motive for the shooting. The suspects and victim in this case are all believed to be homeless in the Balboa Park area.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the San Diego Police Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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