

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

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Death Investigation in Oceanside

San Diego – Oceanside fire and police personnel responded to a residence regarding a male who was severely bleeding inside a bathroom. Upon arrival, the first responders observed the man had multiple self-inflicted sharp force injuries to his chest and neck. During transport to the hospital, the man struggled with medics and a police officer, necessitating the use of soft restraints. Once at the hospital, staff began treating the man, but he did not survive his injuries.

On October 8, 2024, just after 4:00am, the Oceanside Fire Department and the Oceanside Police Department responded to an apartment on the 1400 block of Division Street regarding a person bleeding badly from a severe cut to his neck and not responding to questions from family. The man was treated by first responders at the scene, and it was determined he also had several sharp force injuries to his chest. These wounds appeared to be self-inflicted, and a knife was found near the man. He was transported by ambulance to a local hospital.

While en route to the hospital, the man began to violently struggle with the medics and injured himself further. Medics, with the assistance of an Oceanside police officer who was following the transport, were able to gain control of the man and apply soft medical restraints to his arms and legs. Once at the hospital, the man was treated by staff but unfortunately, he did not survive his injuries.

Due to force being used to subdue the man, and out of an abundance of caution, the death is being investigated as an in-custody death. Per the Countywide Memorandum of Understanding, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit was called to the scene to conduct the in-custody death investigation. Detectives will be working with the Medical Examiner's Office to determine if the use of force played any role in the man's death.

The decedent is described as a 26-year-old Hispanic man. He is not being identified currently, pending family notifications. The patrol officer involved in this incident has been employed by the Oceanside Police Department for approximately one year.

The investigation and review process for in-custody deaths are extremely thorough. When the Homicide Unit completes its investigation, it will be reviewed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to determine if the officer bears any criminal liability for his actions. The Oceanside Police Department will conduct an administrative investigation into the actions of the officer. The Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office will also be monitoring the investigation.

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

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