

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, December 12, 2024

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## **Final Update on Suspicious Death in Allied Gardens**

**San Diego** – On Friday, December 22, 2023, at approximately 11:45 a.m., officers from Eastern Division responded to the 4900 block of Zion Avenue to investigate a report of death. Essentially, out-of-town family members were at a residence and located a dead body inside of a chest freezer. They immediately called police. Based on the unusual location of the body, the San Diego Police Homicide Unit was called to investigate.

Working with the Medical Examiner's Office, detectives identified the body as Mary Margaret Haxby-Jones, a white female. She would have been 81-years-old at the time she was discovered. Detectives believe that she lived at the address on Zion Avenue prior to her death. They also believe, based on the totality of the investigation, that she may have been missing or dead for up to nine years.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted a comprehensive investigation into the manner and cause of Haxby-Jones's death. On December 11, 2024, Homicide Detectives received the autopsy report. The Medical Examiner concluded that the manner and cause of death are undetermined.

As the Medical Examiner's investigation was occurring, Homicide detectives reached out to financial investigators at the federal level (Social Security and Veteran's Affairs) suspecting that, even if the death was not a homicide, it might have been concealed so that Haxby-Jones' benefits would continue to be paid. At this point, a criminal case of benefits fraud cannot be substantiated because it is unclear beyond a reasonable doubt exactly when Haxby-Jones died.

Detectives did determine that Haxby-Jones's body was unlawfully placed in the freezer by her husband, Robert Haxby. This determination was made considering all of the facts gathered during the investigation, including interviews related to this case. Robert Haxby died on February 3, 2024.

At this point, based on the Medical Examiner's conclusions and the investigative work performed by detectives, the suspicious death investigation is inactive pending any additional or new information brought forward.

Anyone with information regarding this incident can call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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