

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional Arrest Made in the Balboa Park Homicide

San Diego – Homicide Detectives have made a third arrest related to the murder of James Garcia, who was found buried in Balboa Park in 2024.

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 identified and previously arrested the primary suspect, Jeffrey Jones.

Detectives also arrested an accessory to the murder, Brandon Winegarden.

UPDATE: Homicide Detectives continued to investigate the case and identified a third suspect, Gisela Bowers. Bowers is described as a 42-year White female. On March 13, 2025, Bowers was located at 3800 El Cajon Boulevard and arrested for her participation in the murder of James Garcia. Bowers had previously been in a dating relationship with both Garcia and Jones.

The Homicide Unit continues to investigate this case to develop more information regarding Garcia's death. 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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