



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Homicide Unit

Media Information

SUBJECT: Homicide Investigation - Update

LOCATION: 7400 Central Avenue, Lemon Grove

DATE/TIME: April 17, 2020 / 8:00 p.m.

VICTIMS: Caira Rachel Christopher, 15
Leah Sylvania Christopher, 15
Gary Paul Goode, 22
Joann Chantel Hoyt, 40

SUSPECT: Dwayne Edward Groves Jr., 38

San Diego County Sheriff's Department detectives continue their investigation into a homicide that occurred in the 7400 block of Central Avenue in Lemon Grove on Wednesday, April 15th.

On April 17, 2020, the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office identified the two deceased female victims as Caira Rachel Christopher, 15, and Leah Sylvania Christopher, 15. The cause of death for both Caira and Leah is gunshot wound and the manner of death is homicide.

Two others were home at the time of the incident. 40-year-old Joann Chantel Hoyt and 22-year-old Gary Paul Goode. Gary was treated and released from the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Sheriff's Homicide Unit at (858) 285-6330/after hours at (858) 565-5200. You can also remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

Information from prior release on page two of this news release:

Homicide detectives continued their investigation into yesterday's incident at 7400 Central Avenue in the city of Lemon Grove. The two deceased females have been positively identified as the two fifteen-year-old sisters who resided at the home.



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The male suspect, who was arrested yesterday shortly after the incident, is identified as thirty-eight-year-old Dwayne Edward Groves Jr. Groves was booked into the San Diego Central Jail for two counts of 187(a) PC – Murder; two counts of 664 187(a) PC – Attempted Murder; and one count of 245(A)(4) PC - Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Deputies have released the scene and all road blockages have been removed.

Information from Original release:

On April 15th just after noon, deputies from the Lemon Grove Sheriff's Substation responded to the 7400 block of Central Avenue after receiving a radio call about a shooting. There were reports that people had been shot and a suspect was seen running away from the area.

When deputies arrived, they searched the home and located two deceased females who have not been positively identified. Deputies also located a man who had non-life-threatening injuries. The injured male was transported to a hospital for treatment.

Deputies quickly questioned witnesses and learned the adult male suspect had a former relationship with a female who lived at the residence. Deputies immediately searched the area with assistance from Sheriff's ASTREA (helicopter) and located the suspect nearby. He was taken into custody. No other suspects are outstanding.

San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit responded and assumed the investigation. Deputies have blocked off the area of 7400 Central Avenue, which will likely last until tomorrow, April 16th. We thank the public for their patience and cooperation as we conduct our investigation.

Prepared by: Thomas Seiver, Lieutenant
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