



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Homicide Unit

Media Information

SUBJECT: Alpine Murder Investigation Update

LOCATION: 2800 Block of North Victoria Drive, Alpine

DATE/TIME: February 23, 2019 / 2:12 p.m.

VICTIM: Melanie Benitez, age 27

SUSPECT: Paul Paraschak, age 42

Updated information:

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office has completed an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death, and has notified the victim's family of her death. The preliminary manner of death has been ruled a homicide and the cause of death, gunshot wounds. The victim has been identified as twenty-seven-year-old Melanie Benitez of Alpine. She and the suspect had a dating relationship and lived together in Alpine.

Information from prior releases:

The suspect in this case has been identified as forty-two-year-old Paul Paraschak of Alpine. Paraschak has been arrested for one count of murder and booked into the San Diego Central Jail, where he is being held without bail.

This afternoon Alpine Sheriff's deputies responded to multiple 9-1-1 calls from residents in the area of Victoria Drive and England Place, in Alpine. Callers reported hearing shots fired and seeing a man with a gun walking in the area. Deputies responded and quickly located a Caucasian male adult, matching the description of the armed male suspect. The man was detained without incident and found to be armed with two handguns.

Deputies located a gravely injured female adult near a vehicle parked in the 2800 block of Victoria Drive. She was pronounced deceased at the scene by Alpine Fire Department personnel.

The Sheriff's Homicide Unit responded and has assumed responsibility for the investigation.



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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.

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