



Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: August 9th, 2022
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina, Public Information Officer
Phone: (619) 691-5111
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Subject: ALPR ALERT RESULTS IN ARREST OF MURDER SUSPECT IN CHULA VISTA

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On August 9th, 2022, at approximately 4:45 A.M., an officer with the Chula Vista Police Department was on patrol in the area of 745 E Street when his Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system alerted him to the presence of a vehicle wanted in connection with a San Bernardino County murder investigation.

The Chula Vista Police Department has operated an ALPR system since 2007. ALPR systems use cameras, often mounted on police vehicles, to photograph a license plate and compare that plate against police databases, such as lists of stolen and wanted vehicles. This process typically occurs within seconds. After an alert is triggered, an officer must independently validate that the ALPR system has accurately interpreted the license plate, validate that the license plate matches the vehicle of interest, verify that an alert is valid, and make an informed decision as to what action to take.

In this case, the ALPR system alerted the officer to a license plate on an unoccupied parked vehicle at the Motel 6, 745 E Street. The alert was regarding a suspect out of San Bernardino County, 40-year-old Daniella Hess Prieto, who was wanted for murder. Hess Prieto was believed to be armed and dangerous. After verifying that the vehicle was indeed wanted, the officer conducted further investigation and determined that Hess Prieto had checked into a room at the Motel 6. Officers immediately set up a perimeter to keep the suspect from fleeing, while taking every precaution to keep the officers and the surrounding community safe. Due to the violent nature of the alleged crime, the Chula Vista Police Department's SWAT Team was called to the scene.

At around 9 A.M, the SWAT Team successfully made contact with Hess Prieto and took her into custody without incident. She was immediately turned over to deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department has provided a news release about the investigation, available at <https://local.nixle.com/alert/9590150/> . **Further inquiries on the homicide investigation should be directed to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Their Public Information Officer, Mara Rodriguez, can be reached at (909) 226-3698.**

Responsible and effective use of technology is the third of six pillars as noted by the 2014 Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Technology provides agencies opportunities to better serve their communities and enable them to solve crimes more quickly and prevent further victimization, as well as create new pathways and connections with the community. Proactive community policing strategies, coupled with technologies such as ALPR systems, continue to help law enforcement agencies keep their communities safe.

The Chula Vista Police Department commends the good work of its officers, and the collaborative efforts of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, in locating and apprehending this dangerous person.

Prepared By: Sgt. Anthony Molina
Copies Sent To: San Diego Media

Approved By: Capt. Phil Collum
Date/Time: 08-09-2022 / 1600