CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Roxana Kennedy Chief of Police Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

| Date: | October 17 th , 2023 |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To: | San Diego Media |
| From: | Chula Vista Police Department |
| Contact: | Sergeant Anthony Molina |
| Phone: | (619) 691-5111 |
| Email: | pio@chulavistapd.org |
| Subject: | 2020 HOMICIDE – 700 BLOCK OF E ST., CHULA VISTA – THIRD ARREST MADE |

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, the Chula Vista Police Department arrested a third suspect in the 2020 murder of 41-year-old Corey McCastle.

On Thursday, March 19th, 2020, at 10:08 P.M., officers responded to a report of gunshots in the area of 700 E Street in Chula Vista. When officers arrived on scene, they located a man — later identified as McCastle — on the ground with gunshot wounds. McCastle was transported by paramedics to a local hospital, but despite lifesaving measures, he was pronounced deceased.

At the time of the initial investigation, it was believed McCastle went to the location to speak with an unknown person regarding a dispute over a dog. Witnesses on scene said the suspect ran up to McCastle and started shooting at him. The suspect then fled on foot. He was described as an adult male wearing dark clothing and armed with a handgun.

Detectives immediately began collecting video evidence, speaking with witnesses, and working to identify suspects. Throughout the course of the investigation, with combined efforts of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, four suspects were identified as being involved in the murder.

Earlier this year, two of the four suspects were arrested on charges related to the case. On February 22nd, 2023, 29-year-old Victor Nunez of San Diego was arrested for murder. On September 14th, 2023, 28-year-old Aaron Gonzalez of Murrieta was arrested for murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

This past Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, a third suspect, 57-year-old Veotis Thomas of La Mesa was arrested for murder and conspiracy to commit murder. At the time of the arrest, Thomas was already in custody at the San Diego County Jail on unrelated charges.

The Chula Vista Police Department and the San Diego County District Attorney's Office are continuing to collaborate on the investigation and expect to make an additional arrest soon. At this time, due to the pending arrest, there is no further information that can be provided publicly. Anyone with information on this case who has not yet spoken with investigators is asked to contact San Diego County Crime

Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 or submit a tip via P3tips (online or mobile application) <u>http://p3tips.com/409</u> if they wish to remain anonymous.

*Weekend and after-hour inquiries should be directed to the Watch Commander at (619)476-5374, however no other information is available for release at the time of this media advisory distribution.

| Prepared By: | Sergeant Anthony Molina | Approved By: | Assistant Chief Phil Collum |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Copies Sent To: | San Diego Media | Date/Time: | 10-17-2023 / 1100 |