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## NEWS RELEASE

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Chris Magnus  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 04/12/2019  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION 3600 BLOCK OF SOUTH CALLE POLAR

The Tucson Police Department is actively investigating a homicide that occurred on Tucson's East Side.

On March 17, 2019, just before 11:00 p.m., officers from Operations Division East were dispatched to a residential complex in the 3600 block of South Calle Polar for a report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers were flagged down by a male in the driveway who identified himself as **58-year-old Rafael Buckner**. He advised police that he was involved in the incident and that the incident took place at his residence. Buckner was then detained while additional officers responded to the home. Outside of the front door, officers located **57-year old Marlon Hartley** who was lying on the ground with obvious signs of sharp force trauma. Officers immediately began rendering aid to Hartley utilizing their Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). Tucson Fire responded and transported Hartley to Banner University Medical Center with life threatening injuries.

Detectives with the Tucson Police Violent Crimes Section responded to continue the investigation. They learned that Hartley and Buckner were friends and that Hartley had been staying at Buckner's home for several days. It was determined that earlier that evening, Buckner and Hartley were drinking alcohol at the home when an altercation ensued between the two men. During the altercation, Hartley was stabbed. After detectives completed their initial investigation, Buckner was arrested and booked into the Pima County Jail on one count of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Hartley remained in the hospital for weeks with no improvement. On April 9, 2019, Hartley succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the hospital. On April 10, 2019, an autopsy was performed and the cause of death was determined to be a homicide. On April 11, 2019, detectives charged Buckner with one count of Second Degree Murder. Buckner's Aggravated Assault charge was dismissed. His booking photograph is attached below.



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**Rafael Buckner**

Marlon Hartley's next of kin have been notified. Detectives are asking anyone with information about this incident to please call 88-CRIME. You can remain anonymous.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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