



NEWS RELEASE

Chris Magnus
Chief of Police

Contact: Pete Dugan
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tpdpio@tucsonaz.gov
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION 3800 BLOCK OF SOUTH PALM SIDE DRIVE

On February 19, 2017, just before 1:00 a.m., the Tucson Police Department received a 911 call about a possible homicide at a residence in the 3800 block of South Palm Side Drive. The caller stated that his cousin's boyfriend, 26-year-old Manuel Encinas, called him and advised he was going to kill his girlfriend (caller's cousin) and then kill himself. Officers from Operations Division East responded to the Palm Side address where they located a deceased female inside with obvious signs of blunt force trauma.

The Tucson Police Homicide Unit responded to continue the investigation. They learned that Manuel Encinas lived at the residence with the victim. Manuel was not at the home when police arrived and the victim's vehicle was missing. An "Attempt to Locate" was placed on Manuel and the vehicle.

While detectives were investigating the homicide, they were contacted by the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Deputies had responded for an incident at a Circle K on South Nogales Highway and were involved in a shooting at that location. Manuel Encinas was shot and killed during the incident and the victim's vehicle was located at the scene. Next of kin for Manuel has been notified.

The female victim was identified as 26-year-old Christine Betancourt. Next of kin have been notified.

For specific details about the deputy involved shooting, contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Anyone with information about the homicide is asked to call 911 or 88-Crime.

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