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## NEWS RELEASE

Chad Kasmar  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 7/21/2022  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION 4875 SOUTH PARK AVENUE

**\*\*\*UPDATE – July 24, 2022\*\*\***

As the investigation continued into the fatal shooting of Francisco Espriu, Homicide Detectives developed information which identified 18-year-old **Antonio Dario Varela** as the suspect. On July 22, 2022, officers from Operations Division South/Community Response Team (ODS/CRT) and Tucson SWAT located Varela and took him into custody. Detectives conducted additional interviews and served a search warrant. At the conclusion of their investigation, detectives charged Antonio Varela with 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder. He is currently being held in the Pima County Jail on a \$250,000 bond.



Antonio Dario Varela

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**Officer Francisco Magos – July 24, 2022**

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Patrol Officers from Operations Division South responded last night to a fatal shooting outside a convenience store located near S. Park Ave. and E. Irvington Road.

On July 20, 2022, just after 10:00 p.m., the Public Safety Communications Department (PSCD) received numerous 9-1-1 calls reporting a shooting and unresponsive male at 4875 S. Park Ave. Upon arrival, officers located 25-year-old

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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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**Francisco Javier Espriu** with gunshot trauma. Officers immediately began rendering aid and performed CPR on Mr. Espriu, but he ultimately died at the scene. His family has been notified of his passing.

Tucson Homicide Detectives responded to the scene and continued the investigation. According to witness statements and evidence collected at the scene, detectives believe Mr. Espriu was in a verbal confrontation with unknown individuals prior to the shooting. The confrontation turned physical, which led to Mr. Espriu being shot. Currently, no suspects have been identified and detectives are asking anyone with information to call 9-1-1 or 88-CRIME if you wish to remain anonymous. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.

### Homicides Year to Date:

2021 - 45      2022 - 43

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