
NEWS RELEASE

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HOMICIDE EAST DREXEL ROAD AND SOUTH COPPER PLATE AVENUE

*****UPDATE – NOVEMBER 18, 2013*****

Detectives have continued working diligently to identify both the suspect(s) and motive(s) associated to the homicide incident that occurred on the late evening of November 16, 2013 in the area of East Drexel Road and South Copper Plate Avenue. In relation to previous information that was released, the victim's age was erroneously reported as 18-years old. Mr. Antonio Flores was actually 17-years old at the time of his death.

During the course of the investigation, the detectives have tried to obtain further description regarding the suspect vehicle. Thus far, it has been described as a greenish-colored sports utility vehicle, van, or crossover-type vehicle. The year of the vehicle is unknown. Detectives believe that the vehicle was occupied by multiple individuals, who had access to multiple firearms. The firearms fired during the course of the shooting incident were thought to be long-gun type weapons, possibly shotguns and/or rifles. Multiple rounds were fired at the victims and the truck in which they were riding.

The shooting incident at the Circle K store did appear to only involve non-lethal projectiles. However, the violence further escalated when both vehicles were on East Drexel Road moments later, and the suspects fired multiple lethal rounds at the victims and truck. Not only was Mr. Flores struck by gunfire and killed, but the lives of the other six individuals riding in the truck were seriously endangered. As such, the Tucson Police Department asks that anyone having knowledge of a greenish vehicle similar to a sports utility vehicle, van, or crossover that was occupied by multiple armed subjects on the night of Saturday, November 16, 2013 to please call 911 or 88-Crime.

Sergeant Maria Hawke – November 18, 2013

Shortly after 10:16 p.m. on November 16, 2013, an officer from Operations Division South heard gunfire when driving southbound through the intersection of South Park Avenue and East Irvington Road. As he neared the intersection of South Park Avenue and East Drexel Road, several individuals, who were in a gray 2004 Chevrolet Silverado, flagged him down. The officer was told that one of the occupants (an adult male) of the Chevrolet Silverado had been struck by gunfire and was in the bed of the truck. Immediately after coordinating the response of additional police resources via

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his police radio, the officer began to administer CPR to the male shooting victim. Emergency medical personnel from the Tucson Fire Department were requested and responded to assist. They ultimately transported the shooting victim to a local trauma center for additional medical evaluation and treatment. Unfortunately, the victim succumbed to his injuries while at the hospital and was pronounced deceased shortly after 11:00 p.m. He has been identified as 18-year old Antonio Flores. Next of kin have been notified. None of the other occupants of the Chevrolet Silverado were injured as a result of the gunfire.

Detectives from several investigative units, including the Homicide Unit, the Aggravated Assault Unit, the Robbery Unit, and the Night Detectives Unit, responded to further the investigation. The preliminary investigation revealed that a total of 6 individuals were riding in the Chevrolet Silverado on the evening of November 16, 2013. They were stopped in the parking lot of a Circle K store located at South Campbell Avenue and East Drexel Road. While there, a dark colored vehicle approached them, and one of the occupants fired an unknown projectile (possibly a pellet from a BB-gun or CO2 charged weapon) at the group associated with the Chevrolet Silverado. The projectile struck at least one of the individuals, but none of them appeared to be injured. The unknown occupants of the dark vehicle quickly drove out of the parking lot and began traveling westbound on East Drexel Road. The occupants of the Chevrolet Silverado drove to follow the dark vehicle in an effort to obtain a license plate to the suspect vehicle. The Chevrolet Silverado caught up to the dark vehicle in the vicinity of East Drexel Road and South Copper Plate Avenue. At that point, an unknown individual or individuals from the dark vehicle fired multiple gunshots at the occupants of the Chevrolet Silverado, striking Mr. Flores at least once. Immediately after the shots were fired, the suspect vehicle fled the area and was last seen traveling southbound on South Copper Plate Avenue. The Chevrolet Silverado continued traveling westbound on East Drexel Road, and the occupants flagged down the officer when they saw him just north of the intersection of South Park Avenue and East Drexel Road.

The suspects associated with the dark vehicle have not been identified. Additionally, the motives for the initial shooting at South Campbell Avenue and East Drexel Road and the subsequent shooting incident that occurred near East Drexel Road and South Copper Plate Avenue are unknown. The Tucson Police Department asks that anyone having information about these incidents, the suspects, and/or the motives to please call 911 or 88-Crime.

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