



Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: February 22, 2025 ***UPDATED November 6th, 2025**
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Email: pio@chulavistapd.org
Subject: **ARREST MADE IN DOUBLE HOMICIDE** – ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE: *Suspicious Deaths Investigation 1600 Paseo Carina Chula Vista-Occurred 02/21/2025*

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chula Vista, CA – An Ohio man has been arrested and is awaiting extradition to San Diego County for the murders of a man and woman found dead in their home in Chula Vista this past February.

PREVIOUS MEDIA RELEASE ON FEB. 22nd, 2025:

Chula Vista- A man and a woman were found dead in their apartment. The Chula Vista Police Department's Crimes of Violence Unit are investigating the deaths as suspicious.

Just before 2:30 PM on Friday afternoon (February 21, 2025), the Chula Vista Police Department responded to the 1600 block of Paseo Carina in Chula Vista to investigate a call of suspicious circumstances. The caller, a resident of the same townhouse community, had several concerns about a specific apartment including not seeing the residents for weeks.

Based on the circumstances, when officers arrived, they conducted a welfare check of the apartment and located a deceased 57 year old male and 71 year old female, believed to be the residents of the townhome apartment.

The Chula Vista Police Department Crimes of Violence Unit responded and are actively investigating this incident.

The victims' identities are being withheld until proper notification of family members. Additional details are not available for release at this time. Anyone with information is asked to please contact San Diego County Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477 or submit tips anonymously online or through the P3tips mobile application.

***UPDATE #1 (NOV. 6th, 2025):**

Soon after the investigation began, the case was upgraded to a homicide investigation. The victims were identified as 57-year-old Abdul Hasan and 71-year-old Paz Gojar, cohabitants of the residence. Although the cause of death was initially unclear due to the condition of the victims, during the autopsies, investigators learned that both had been fatally stabbed.

Throughout the course of the investigation, detectives developed leads based on statements, evidence recovered at the scene, and additional investigative efforts. These leads identified 43-year-old Steven Cleveland, of Ohio, as a person of interest in the murders. Detectives learned that Cleveland fled to Kentucky shortly after the homicides.

On April 3, 2025, Cleveland was located and arrested in Knoxville, Tennessee, on an unrelated warrant. While he remained in custody, the homicide investigation continued for several months, involving extensive collaboration among regional and out-of-state law enforcement agencies. Detectives executed multiple search warrants, obtained additional witness statements, and analyzed collected evidence.

Based on the findings, investigators believe that on January 29, 2025, Cleveland stabbed Hasan and then fatally stabbed Gojar before fleeing the scene, leaving both victims inside the residence.

On October 22, 2025, an arrest warrant was issued for Cleveland, charging him with multiple offenses including murder and auto theft. The warrant has since been served, and Cleveland remains in custody at the Tri-County Regional Jail in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, awaiting extradition to San Diego County.

“In complex and lengthy investigations like this one, the community often doesn’t see the tireless work happening behind the scenes. Our detectives, crime lab personnel, and so many others – including members of the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office and our law enforcement partners in Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee – played key roles in identifying and locating the suspect. I’m deeply proud of their dedication and teamwork, and our hearts remain with the victims’ families as we continue to pursue justice on their behalf,” said Chula Vista Police Chief Roxana Kennedy.

The case has been submitted to the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office, which has filed murder and other related criminal charges.

**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: Sgt. Anthony Molina
Copies Sent To: San Diego Media

Approved By: Captain Scott Adkins
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