



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: July 6, 2021, 7:06 a.m.
Incident: 2021-1043877
Location: 4400 South 6th Street
Victim: 77-year-old Maria Ruiz, deceased
Suspect/dog owner: 33-year-old Alejandro Hernandez, MCSO Booking #T712356

Homicide Investigation

On July 6th, just after 7:00 a.m., the Phoenix Police Department responded to the area of 6th Street and Broadway Road regarding a woman who was being attacked by dogs. Officers and firefighters arrived and located the female who was suffering from multiple critical injuries. She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

During the investigation, detectives learned the victim was on her front porch when she was attacked by four Staffordshire Terrier mix dogs without any provocation. Maricopa County Animal Care and Control was able to capture and take custody of the dogs. Due to the circumstances, one was submitted to the state lab for rabies testing. It was learned the owner of the dog had been contacted in the past by Maricopa County Animal Care about his dogs escaping and was instructed on at least one occasion to fix a gate to keep the dogs secured and issued license warnings.

During an interview with detectives, the suspect told them the dogs had escaped multiple times in the past, and that they had gone after and bitten neighbors. The suspect is being booked for one count of negligent homicide.