

SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT 155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: May 7, 2012 – 11:52 AM **LOCATION**: 300 Block of Broadway

TOPIC: Homicide ARREST UPDATE CASE NUMBER: 12S-03763

INVOLVED SUBJECTS:

1. Name: Charles Anthony Edwards III Arrested: [X] Yes [] No

DOB: 43 Years-Old Charges: 187

Transient - San Francisco is Last Known Residence Photo Temporarily Withheld Pending Photo Lineups

<u>VICTIM(S)</u> <u>AGE</u>

Shannon Kathleen Collins 38 years-old – Santa Cruz Resident

<u>INFORMATION</u>: UPDATE – VICTIM INFORMATION: After notification of the family, including out of state relatives, the department is able to identify the victim as Shannon Kathleen Collins of Santa Cruz. Ms. Collins was a well-respected downtown business owner and community member. We are asking that the community come together to support the family in this tragic event.

***Please note that given the high number of witnesses to the attack, investigators are still conducting photo lineups and therefore the suspect's, Charles Anthony Edwards III, photo still cannot be released. We will provide it as soon as it is possible. ***

UPDATE: Yesterday, at approximately 9:00 pm, Charles Anthony Edwards III was booked into Santa Cru z County Jail for homicide. Mr. Edwards was extensively interviewed by Santa Cruz Police detectives. The Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office and State Department of Justice also aided in the investigation.

After interviews with multiple witnesses, and Mr. Edwards, investigators established that the victim did not know Mr. Edwards. It appears as though this was a senseless, unprovoked and random attack by Mr. Edwards upon an innocent victim. There is no clear motive. Investigators are attempting reconstruct where the victim was heading from and travelling to at the time of the attack.

Mr. Edwards has an extensive violent criminal history in San Francisco. It appears he had been in Santa Cruz for approximately a week.

During the course of the investigation a few elements that were originally reported by our agency were deemed to be inaccurate. Mr. Edwards did not have any local contacts with local law enforcement – he is also 43 years-old (not 44 as originally reported) and the victim is 38 years-old (not 39 as originally reported). The victim was determined to be a Santa Cruz resident and her identity is being withheld as family is still notifying additional kin today.

ORIGINAL RELEASE:

On May 7, 2012 at 11:52 am, Santa Cruz Police officers received a report of a knife brandishing and possible stabbing occurring in the 300 block of Broadway. Officers immediately responded to scene and area perimeter. Officers located a female victim with multiple stab wounds and along with medical personnel attempted to render aid. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene a few minutes later. Perimeter officers located a male subject matching the description of the suspect a short distance away at Barson and Campbell. Based on witness statements and items of evidentiary value found at the scene and on the suspect, officers arrested the male suspect for homicide.

At the scene officers located a weapon believed to have been used in the attack. State Department of Justice officials have been called in to help with evidence processing. At this point investigators are unsure of what relationship, if any, the suspect and victim had. There is no known motive at this stage of the investigation. Officers have closed Broadway between Campbell and Ocean for evidence processing and traffic is being detoured in the area.

The Coroner's Office is attempting to locate the next of kin of the victim. The victim's name will not be released until her family has been notified. The suspect's name will be released once some of elements of the investigation are completed today. Investigators learned that the suspect had previous contacts with San Francisco Police and local police and are working to determine what those contacts were. This is the first homicide in the city in over a year. There are no additional outstanding suspects associated with this case.

Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Santa Cruz Police Investigations at (831) 420-5820 or leave a tip via our website or mobile apps.

To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995

