



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---



**DATE/TIME:** August 23, 2016

**LOCATION:** Levee Pathway on 400 block of Front St.

**TOPIC:** Homicide Investigation

**CASE NUMBER:** 16S- 07083

---

### **INFORMATION:**

#### **UPDATE**

Nino Ruiz has been identified and arrested as the suspect shooter in the homicide investigation from 8/23/16. Jenessa Kic was also arrested for murder and conspiracy to commit a crime. Nino Ruiz is 27 years old, transient from Santa Cruz and Jenessa Kic is 31 years old from Santa Cruz. SCPD Detectives spotted Ruiz in the 300 block of Liebrandt Avenue early yesterday afternoon. Nino Ruiz and Jenessa Kic were detained at 12:10 pm, coming out of a residence on Liebrandt.

Detectives worked continuously to interview multiple witnesses and track down numerous leads that directed the investigation to the two suspects. Jenessa Kic is the girlfriend of Mr. Ruiz and was determined to be associated with the murder. Both suspects were in custody within four hours after the shooting. SCPD Detectives are serving a search warrant on several the homes that Ruiz has visited.

The gun used in the murder has not yet been recovered. The motive for the murder is still under investigation.

The identity of the victim is being withheld until proper notification to family members can be completed. This is the second homicide of the year.

Nino Ruiz is arrested for murder. Jenessa Kic is arrested for murder and conspiracy to commit a crime. Photos attached.

#### **Background:**

On August 23, 2016, at approximately 8:20 am, Santa Cruz Police responded to a report of a victim of a shooting on the levee pathway, near the 400 block of Front Street. Officers arrived within minutes of being dispatched and found a male victim lying in the levee pathway. The victim was suffering from gunshot wound in his upper torso. The officers provided medical attention until they were relieved by medics. Unfortunately, the victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or has information is asked to contact SCPD Investigation at 831- 420-5820. Tips can also be left through the means listed below.

**For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke**

**Phone: (831) 420-5844**

---

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; [www.santacruzpolice.com](http://www.santacruzpolice.com) . Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

**Nino Ruiz**



**Jenessa Kic**

