



PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Media Relations Unit

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Media Release

August 18, 2023

****UPDATE****

Murder of 11-year-old - 1004 Main #204

As the investigation into the murder of 11-year-old Maria Gonzalez continues to progress, we would like to provide additional details.

All apartment complex employees, including the maintenance staff, have fully cooperated with our investigation and at this point do not appear to be involved.

While investigators were processing the crime scene, a single key was located inside the apartment and collected as evidence. This key has since been processed by our crime scene investigators and was not found to open any doors at the victim's residence. Our investigators also confirmed that the young girl's body was found inside a plastic trash bag that was placed inside a laundry basket and concealed under a bed inside the home. We will continue to work with the Institute of Forensic Sciences, who is currently assisting with the analysis of multiple pieces of evidence.

Although we continue combing through multiple evidentiary items, including digital media, no arrests have been made; however, a person of interest has been identified. 18-year-old Juan Carlos Garcia-Rodriguez is a person of interest and was residing at the same apartment complex where the victim was found but has since left.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org, or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

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