



# Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

## Office of Public Information

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**May 11, 2010**

*Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MOTHER CHARGED IN DROWNING DEATH OF TWO YEAR OLD

On May 2, 2010 at approximately 7:41 p.m. L.V.M.P.D. Patrol Officers responded to the 4800 block of Santa Barbra Street in Southeast Las Vegas to investigate reports a child had drowned in a backyard pool. Arriving officers and medical personnel discovered the two year old child, who had already been removed from the pool, was deceased.

An investigation by Metro's Abuse and Neglect Detail determined the victim's mother had last observed the child alive earlier in the afternoon. At approximately 7:00 p.m. the victims grandmother returned home and found the victim floating in the family's backyard pool. Metro's investigation further determined the child's mother, who was home at the time of this tragedy, was responsible for the care of the victim along with two other infant siblings. It is believed the child gained access to the pool through an open sliding glass door.

On May 10, 2010, L.V.M.P.D. officers arrested the victim's mother, identified as Mary Jane Lopez, 22 years of age of Las Vegas, in connection with this crime. Lopez is charged with:

- Felony child neglect with substantial bodily harm resulting in death, and
- Felony child neglect, two counts, relating to the two other infant siblings who were home at the time of this incident.

The two other siblings were taken into protective custody by Clark County Child Protective Services following this incident.

Metro reminds all valley residents the best way to prevent such tragedies is constant supervision by a competent adult. As warm weather approaches children will once again be attracted to swimming pools. Backyards containing swimming pools should be securely fenced with locked access gates. Additionally, pools should be safely enclosed with some type of secure barrier which prevents the undesired and un-supervised access by children. Also all doors, including pet doors, which lead from the house into the area where the pool is located must be secured and locked.

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