

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

400-B S. Martin L. King Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89106

Office (702) 828-3394 Fax (702) 828-1550



Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

May 30, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director Jamie Ios
Sergeant Miguel Garcia
Officer Larry Hadfield
Officer Aden Ocampo Gomez
Officer Misael Parra

Deceased Child Found in a Forest Area Near Mountain Springs

**** Update-Digitally Enhanced Photo ****

On May 28, 2021, at approximately 7:45 a.m., LVMPD Dispatch received a call of an unresponsive male in the area of Mountain Springs Trailhead, located near mile marker 20 on State Route 160. Officers located the body of an 8-12-year-old boy laying near the forest area of the trail. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene by medical personnel. During a press conference that afternoon, LVMPD released a sketch of the victim to help in the identification.

In the early hours of May 29, 2021, a mother saw media reports with the sketch of the victim and reached out to LVMPD Homicide. Working with the Clark County Coroner's office, the mother identified the victim as her 8-year-old son. Detectives learned he was last seen leaving his house on Thursday May 27 at approximately 9 p.m. He was accompanied by his 11-year-old half-brother Eden Montes and his biological father 37-year-old Jose Montes-Herrera. At approximately 9 a.m., LVMPD held a press conference in hopes to locate Eden and Jose.

Shortly after, officers received information about the location of the 8-year-old boy, Eden and Jose. They had been camping in an area in central Utah that was outside of cellphone reception. Officers were able to confirm the two boys and Jose were safe. It appears the mother and other family members misidentified the victim of the homicide as their family member.

At this time, LVMPD is actively devoting all available resources to identify the victim. Detectives are currently working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to develop a digitally enhanced picture of the victim. We are still asking for the public's assistance to identify the victim of the homicide.

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**** Update-Digitally Enhanced Photo ****

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was able to provide LVMPD with a digitally enhanced picture of the victim. We are asking teachers in particular to pay close attention to this new digitally enhanced picture. Detectives believe the victim is between the ages of 8 and 12, he is 4'11" and weighs 123 pounds. Due to the location of the body, the victim may have lived in Las Vegas, Pahrump, Baker or other nearby cities. A copy of the enhanced picture accompanies this release.

Anyone with any information about this incident is urged to contact the LVMPD Homicide Section by phone at 702-828-3521, or by email at homicide@lvmpd.com. Or they can call the 24-hour tip line by calling 702-828-3521 or 702-828-2907. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 702-385-5555, or on the internet at www.crimestoppersofnv.com.

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