SUBJECT:   In Custody Death Investigation

LOCATION:  120 Town Center Parkway, Santee

DATE/TIME: December 23, 2018 / 2:53 p.m.

DECEASED:  Withheld, pending family notification

This afternoon, a Santee Patrol Deputy observed a white male adult, believed to be in his early fifties, lying on the sidewalk behind a Walmart store. When the deputy approached and spoke to the man, he sat up and the deputy noticed the male was also in possession of an open container of alcohol. The male was found to be so intoxicated he was unable to care for himself. He was subsequently arrested without incident for public intoxication and sat in the back seat of a patrol car. Moments later, deputies noticed the male's breathing was labored, so they called for an ambulance. The male soon stopped breathing and deputies began CPR, until medics arrived and took over CPR.

The man was transported to a local hospital via ambulance, but despite further lifesaving efforts he was pronounced dead at 5:11 p.m.

The Sheriff’s Homicide Unit responded to investigate the man's death, as they do with any in custody death. The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office will notify the man's next of kin and perform an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of the man's death.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Sheriff's Homicide Unit at (858) 285-6330/after hours at (858) 565-5200. You can also remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

Prepared by: Rich Williams, Lieutenant
Sheriff's Homicide Unit  (858) 285-6330