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**PRESS CONFERENCE**

January 19, 2017

**STATEMENT**

## **FATALITY IN TUESDAY'S FIRE RULED HOMICIDE; VICTIM HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED**

### **IMPERIAL, CA:**

The Imperial County Fire Department received an early morning call Tuesday, January 17, 2017, of a structure fire at 312 Chisholm Trail in the City of Imperial. The call was placed by a resident living on the block of the incident. The fire was suspicious in nature which led to the involvement of multiple agencies including surrounding cities' fire personnel, law enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It was evident that additional investigative steps needed to be taken. This was a single family home that had one person in the home at the time of the fire.

A body was recovered in the master bedroom of the home. We have identified the victim of this tragedy as 36 year old female Yunique Puckett Dorame (Pronounced Unique Puck-et Door-a-me). The Imperial County Sherriff's Office- Coroner Division conducted the autopsy. A preliminary inspection of the victim revealed cause of death. As a result, the case has been ruled a homicide. We cannot comment on the cause of death, nor the condition of the remains due to the ongoing investigation.

After further investigation it was determined that the victim's car was stolen. The vehicle registered to the victim was a 2002 Black Nissan Altima, four (4) door sedan; license plate number 7UKD877. We can report that the vehicle was recovered last night, January 18<sup>th</sup>, in the City of Brawley

We ask anyone that has any information regarding this case please contact the Imperial Police Department at (760) 355-1158. All calls will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

The Imperial Police Department is the lead agency investigating this case and is working in conjunction with the Imperial County Fire Department, Imperial County Sherriff's Office-Coroner Division and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

To the all those affected by this tragic loss we offer our deepest condolences. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. We will take every measure available to us to seek justice for the victim and her loved ones.

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**Participating Agencies and Representatives Present:**

City Manager Stefan Chatwin

City of Imperial Mayor James Tucker

Imperial Police Chief Miguel Colon

Imperial County Fire Chief Tony Rouhotas

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent Chad Key

For media questions related to this case and/or press conference please call (760) 355-4373.