Coroner Division Seeking Public’s Assistance Identifying Body Found in Ocean off Huntington Beach

SANTA ANA, Calif. (January 5, 2016) – On Thursday, December 31, 2015, a body was located in the ocean, approximately 1 mile off shore from the entrance to Huntington Harbor. The deceased person is believed to be that of a middle-aged male adult. Based on the preliminary investigation, Coroner investigators believe the body was in the ocean for up to 6 weeks. The body is decomposed and presents a physical condition consistent with prolonged exposure to salt water.

The decedent has a dark complexion and is possibly Middle-Eastern or African-American. He is 5 feet, 8 inches tall, average to slim build with dark short hair. The decedent has a distinct ear to ear, short beard and a significant amount of body hair. There was no clothing found on the decedent.

Based on the preliminarily investigation and body examination, there was nothing to indicate an obvious cause of death; however, an autopsy and toxicology tests will provide additional information. A manner and cause of death is pending the outcome of additional tests and investigation. Coroner investigators are continuing to collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to determine if the decedent is connected to a missing person investigation.

The autopsy was completed on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s Coroner Division at (714) 647-4134. Anonymous tips may also be submitted to Orange County Crime Stoppers at 855-TIP-OCCS (855-847-6227) or at occrimestoppers.org.

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