



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: June 13, 2024, around 6:30 a.m.
Incident: 2024-861370
Location: 2500 North 46th Street
Victim: Margie New, 64-year-old female, deceased
Suspect: Luis Tapia, 24-year-old male, in custody

Sexual Assault Suspect Linked to 2024 Homicide

(September 23, 2025): Phoenix police detectives have definitively linked a recently arrested sexual assault suspect to a homicide which took place one year ago in the same location as the sexual assault. This discovery is the result of the tireless work of multiple investigative bureaus working collaboratively to identify and arrest the man responsible for both the homicide and sexual assault.

On June 13, 2024, officers were called to an emergency radio call of an unknown trouble in an alley west of 2500 North 46th Street. When officers arrived, they found an unresponsive woman on the ground, suffering from a head injury. The fire department responded and rushed the woman to the hospital. She received treatment for nearly a week and died from her injuries on June 21, 2024. She was identified as 64-year-old Margie New.

As part of the investigation, investigators collected biological evidence from New, which was processed by forensic scientists, resulting in the discovery of a male DNA profile. Initially, that profile was entered into CODIS (Combined DNA Index System), but no DNA profile match was found.

In August 2025, a brutal sexual assault occurred just a few yards south in that same alley where New was found. Investigators collected evidence in that investigation which also produced a male DNA profile. That profile was entered into CODIS, and a match was found. Detectives learned the same suspect was linked to both New's murder and the sexual assault.

Investigators worked tirelessly by reaching out to the public through our media partners and passing out Silent Witness flyers. Earlier this month, detectives caught a break, when a community member stepped up and provided the tip needed. With that tip, detectives identified 24-year-old Luis Tapia and took him into custody on September 20, 2025, where he was booked for sexual assault and kidnapping charges. Detectives secured a search warrant and collected Tapia's DNA.

Yesterday, forensic scientists were able to officially confirm Tapia's DNA matched those found in New's case. Additional charges will soon be added to current charges Tapia faces.

The success of these cases is shared with our community, who spoke up against a violent offender who was victimizing members of our community. These cases also highlight the outstanding work and collaboration between our patrol officers, detectives, crime scene investigators, and the forensic crime lab staff.

The investigations remain active as detectives continue to process the evidence found in these cases.

Sergeant Phil Krynsky
Public Affairs Bureau

