



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



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: March 16, 2025, just before 2:30 a.m.
Incident: 2025-388423
Location: 700 North Central Avenue
Victim: Rafael Montoya, 22-year-old male, deceased

Late Night Brawl Leaves One Man Dead Days Later

(March 19, 2025): Detectives are looking for video evidence of a large fight that resulted in a man dead three days later.

On March 16, 2025, around 2:30 am, two Phoenix police officers were working security, in an off-duty capacity, at a neighborhood bar. During their shift, a large fight broke out between multiple individuals on the street, just outside the business. Officers worked to diffuse the fight when they were alerted by witnesses to a man, later identified as 22-year-old Rafael Montoya, lying on the ground. An officer assessed Montoya and noted he was breathing but unconscious with injuries to his head. Officers remained with Montoya until fire personnel arrived. Montoya was rushed to the hospital where he was admitted for severe head trauma.

Detectives responded to take over the investigation. Investigators processed the scene, spoke to witnesses and searched for video evidence. Multiple individuals involved in the fight were interviewed, identified, and released. No arrests have been made as detectives continue to process evidence that was collected.

On March 19, Montoya died as a result from his injuries at the hospital.

Detectives believe there are more individuals out there who possibly captured video footage of the incident. The Department is asking those individuals to come forward and share that footage with investigators. Below is a QR code where witnesses can access the portal to submit their videos. As always, anyone with information can call Phoenix police or Silent Witness, if they wish to remain anonymous.



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*Sergeant Phil Krynsky
Public Affairs Bureau*

