



# **PRESS RELEASE**

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** Arrest

**LOCATION:** N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Santa Clara Street, San Jose

Office of the Sheriff  
Santa Clara County  
55 W. Younger Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95110

## **DETAILS:**

This afternoon, Sheriff's Office detectives arrested suspect Manuel Rodriguez for murder for selling a lethal amount of fentanyl to his victim, who died as a result of the overdose. This is a landmark case in an effort to hold perpetrators accountable for their intentional criminal actions that have known, deadly consequences.

For months, Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Detectives have been diligently investigating a suspected fentanyl dealer in connection with the April 2022 overdose death of Jeffrey Diaz, a 61-year-old Cupertino resident. As evidence was gathered, Detectives zeroed in on 28-year-old San Jose resident Manuel Anthony Rodriguez as their primary suspect with the case ultimately presented to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office for consideration on formal charging. An arrest warrant was issued for homicide and several drug trafficking charges. Detectives took the suspect into custody this afternoon about 1:30 pm. Further details of the case are being withheld at this time due to the ongoing investigation.

The amount of fentanyl pushed into California communities is at epidemic levels and increasing in both lethality and availability. Fentanyl is found in many forms, but most commonly in powder form or in counterfeit prescription pills. According to the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 2 milligrams is considered a lethal dose for the average person and that amount is small enough to fit in the tip of a pencil. The Sheriff's Office continues to highlight this information to provide awareness to our community of the dangers of fentanyl and encourages conversations within the home to protect loved ones from deadly consequences.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to call the anonymous Sheriff's Office tip line at (408) 808-4420.

## **PREPARED BY:**

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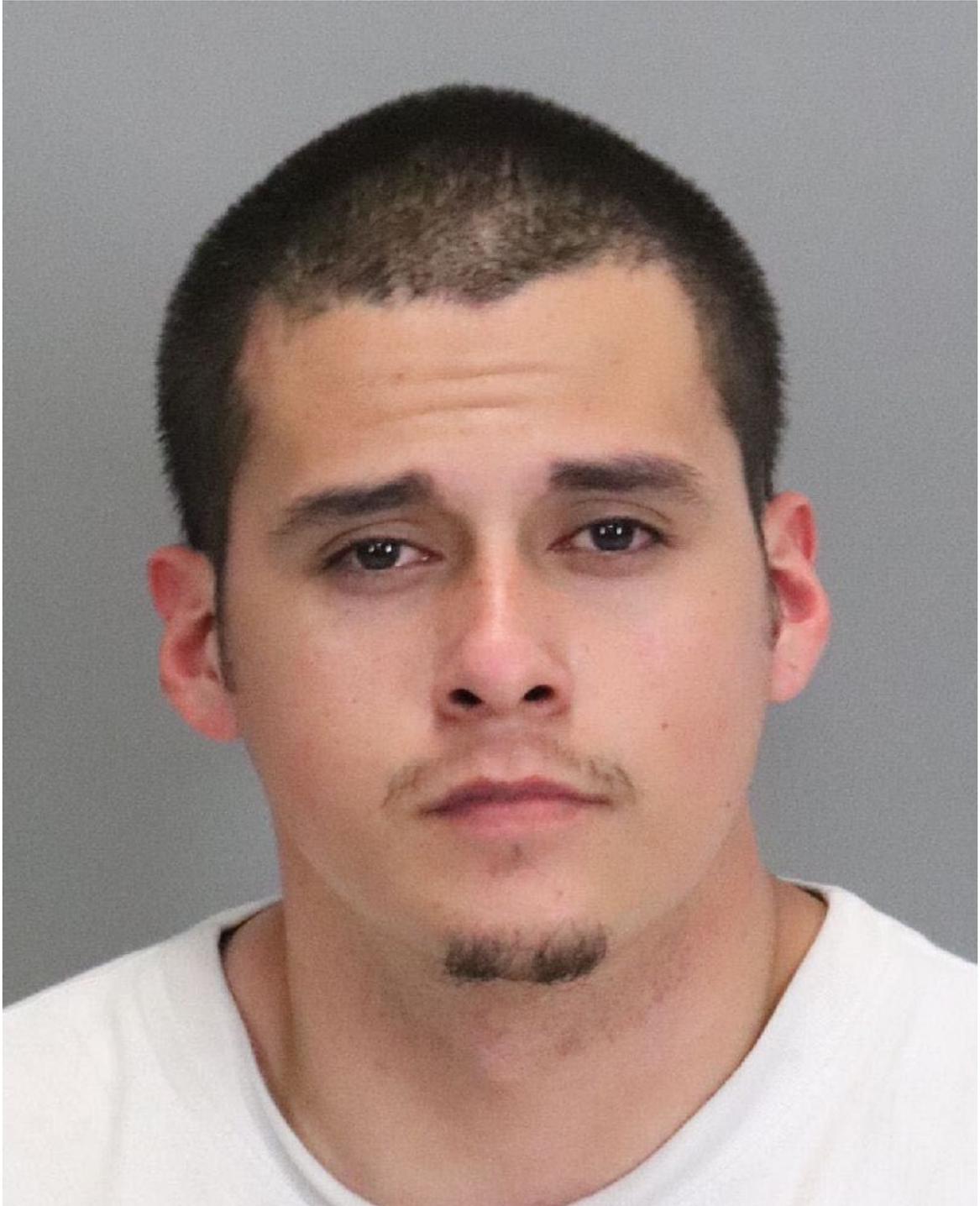
[Michael.low@shf.sccgov.org](mailto:Michael.low@shf.sccgov.org)

**APPROVED BY:**

Acting Sheriff Ken Binder

**DATE/ TIME:**

December 6th, 2022 @ 1730 hours



**Suspect: Manuel Anthony Rodriguez  
(previous booking photo)**