



PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange Street • Riverside, CA 92501

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Saturday, October 29, 2011
Contact: Sergeant David Amador
Phone: 951-353-7107

Two Arrested in Woman's Murder

Riverside, CA. –

On Friday, October 28, 2011, at 1645 hours, the Communications Bureau of the police department received a call regarding a missing subject from a residence in the 11500 block of Gedney Way in the La Sierra area of Riverside. Family members from out of state called the Riverside Police Department when their mother, Laverna Brown, 66, of Riverside, failed to arrive as scheduled on a flight from Ontario to an airport in Georgia for a family visit.

Patrol officers began an investigation to determine where the victim may be. The victim's vehicle was also missing. Information was developed which indicated Ms. Brown may have been the victim of foul play. Detectives from the Robbery Homicide Unit and technicians from the Forensic Unit responded and continued the investigation.

Information continued to be developed throughout the night and into the morning which led to the discovery of the victim's vehicle about 1048 hours on Saturday, the 29th. The vehicle was located in a parking lot on Fremont between Central and Mountain View across from the Riverside Auto Auction north of the Riverside Airport. The victim was deceased inside the vehicle, the victim of an apparent homicide.

Two people of interest were contacted during this investigation and they were interviewed by detectives. After the interviews and additional investigation, the two were arrested for the murder of Ms. Brown. Ruthetta Lois Hobson, 39, of Riverside, a roommate of the victim, along with Julius Patrick Thomas, 30, of Jurupa Valley were booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside, for PC 187 – Murder.

Detectives were assisted in this investigation by the Riverside County Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, and Forensic Technicians from the Riverside Office of the California Department of Justice Crime Lab.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Detective Rick Wheeler at (951)353-7134 or Detective Rick Cobb at (951) 353-7135.

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