



Winter Haven Police Department

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Media Release

Date: December 29, 2009

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Contact: Sergeant Brad Coleman
(863) 291-5734

On December 28, 2009 at about 11:30 p.m. Winter Haven police responded to 4024 Vista Del Lago Drive NE in reference to a reported shooting. Officers arrived on scene and discovered David Santana (h/m, age 46) had suffered a fatal gunshot wound to the chest. Investigators identified Shael Torres (h/m, age 28) as the shooter. Torres and several witnesses were interviewed by detectives.

Based on available evidence and witness statements, it has been determined that Santana (deceased) was Torres' uncle and that the two had been involved in an ongoing family dispute. Prior to the shooting the dispute became violent when Santana attacked Torres with a knife. Torres responded by shooting Santana.

Santana lived at the incident location. Torres lives nearby at 4110 Vista Del Lago Drive NE.

Detectives believe that this shooting was in self-defense and have not charged Torres, however this investigation is ongoing. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Mitch Meadows at (863) 291-5311 or Detective Mark Zagar at (863) 291-5730.

Anyone with information who wants to remain anonymous and be eligible for a CASH REWARD is asked to call Polk County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS.

In accordance with Florida public records laws, redacted copies of case reports from this incident may be available to the media. Requests for reports should be made through the WHPD records division at (863) 291-5649.

WHPD Case #09-19177

***** End of Media Release *****

