



FAIRBANKS POLICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Incident: Homicide/Suicide

Location: 1000 Block 22nd Avenue and 2200 Block Mercier Street

Case Number: 07-782

Date: January 14, 2007

On January 13, 2007, at approximately 2337 hours, the Fairbanks Police Department received a 911 call reporting people arguing in the street on the 2200 block of Mercier Street. JOSHUA HJELM, dob 02-02-1990, was found lying in the roadway, the victim of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead on-scene.

Two additional gunshot victims were found shortly after in a wooded area near the 1000 Block of 22nd Avenue. These victims were identified as JOHN ESMAILKA, dob 05-10-1988, and DAPHNE SIPARY, dob 09-30-1990. Both victims were transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and then by air ambulance to Providence Medical Center in Anchorage. As of 01-15-07, at 1230 hours, SIPARY was declared deceased. ESMAILKA is currently on life support, however his prognosis is poor.

Investigation has determined that HJELM, ESMAILKA and SIPARY, who is reported to be HJELM'S girlfriend, were among a group of individuals who had gathered in the wooded area near the 1000 block of 22nd Avenue. Witnesses reported that sometime during the evening, HJELM had become upset with SIPARY. Witness statements and scene-investigation indicate that HJELM shot SIPARY and ESMAILKA, then chased two other individuals to the 2200 block of Mercier Street, where he then shot himself in the head. The motive behind the shooting of ESMAILKA is unknown.

Anyone with any additional information can contact the Fairbanks Police Department at 459-6500 or the Fairbanks Police Department Investigations Divisions at 450-6550.

App: 
CC: Mayor Thompson
Press Board