Citrus Heights Police Department
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Alexander A. Turcotte, Chief of Police

~ Office of the Chief ~
MEDIA RELEASE

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Fentanyl Overdose Homicide – Suspects Arrested

On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 5, 2025, Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD) detectives served arrest warrants for two suspects in connection with the October 2024 fentanyl-related death of a 25-year-old man. Gabriela Valenzuela (20-year-old) and Luis Romero-Espinoza (22-year-old) were taken into custody and are being charged with homicide resulting from the victim's fentanyl overdose, as well as felony illegal drug sales.

> *On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, CHPD officers responded to a call regarding an unresponsive 25-year-old male at a residence in Citrus Heights. Despite life-saving efforts by CHPD officers and Sacramento Metro Fire medical personnel, the victim was pronounced deceased at the scene. Detectives responded and found evidence indicating the victim had died from a fentanyl overdose.*
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> *Following a comprehensive investigation, CHPD detectives determined that Gabriela Valenzuela and Luis Romero-Espinoza provided the fentanyl that caused the victim's death. Multiple search warrants were executed, and investigators found evidence that both suspects had full knowledge of the dangers associated with fentanyl prior to its sale to the victim.*

Fentanyl is a highly potent and deadly synthetic opioid, and just two milligrams—the equivalent of a few grains of salt—can be fatal. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) warns, *"One Pill Can Kill."* Drug dealers who knowingly sell fentanyl-laced substances that result in death can and will be prosecuted for murder under California law. The Citrus Heights Police Department is committed to holding drug traffickers accountable and urges the public to understand the deadly consequences of fentanyl use and distribution. If you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse, help is available. Don't let one pill be the last.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Citrus Heights Police Department Crime Tip Line at (916) 727-5524. If you have information and would like to remain anonymous, please call the Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers tip hotline at (916) 443-HELP. ***Anonymous information leading to the arrest of suspects for any Citrus Heights crimes may be eligible for a cash award.***