



ELLENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
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MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate release

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Controlled Substance Homicide Arrest

ELLENSBURG, Wash. — On January 21, 2022, Jonathan Rivera-Venegas of Ellensburg was booked into the Kittitas County Jail on Controlled Substance Homicide charges. These charges are related to the August 16, 2021 overdose death of 16 year old Mateo Quintero-Castano. Officers and Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue personnel responded to the Quintero-Castano residence after family members found Quintero-Castano unresponsive, he was later pronounced deceased. Based on initial information gathered at the scene, EPD Detectives initiated a Controlled Substance Homicide investigation into his death. The investigation developed information that led to an arrest warrant for Controlled Substance Homicide being issued for Rivera-Venegas.

At the time of this warrant being issued, Rivera-Venegas had already been arrested for Controlled Substance Homicide in connection with the August 7, 2021 Fentanyl overdose death of 21 year Sage Francois. During that investigation Rivera-Venegas had fled the state, and with the assistance of the Yakima Federal Violent Crimes Task Force, and the Honolulu Police Department, he was arrested October 5, 2021 in Hawaii. The arrest warrant for Quintero-Castano's death was served on Rivera-Venegas while in jail in Hawaii.

Once the extradition procedures were completed Rivera-Venegas was transported back to Ellensburg by the United States Marshall's and booked into the Kittitas County Jail for two counts of Controlled Substance Homicide, a Class B Felony. Each count holds a maximum sentence of 10 years confinement. Rivera-Venegas faces additional charges related to the sale and delivery of drugs.

We want to extend our thanks to the partnering agencies for their assistance in taking this suspect into custody and transporting him back to Ellensburg.

Our thoughts continue to be with the Quintero-Castano family, the Francois family, and to all the other families who have lost loved ones to overdose death. The Ellensburg Police Department continues to investigate overdose deaths and associated drug trafficking crimes.

If you or anyone you know is suffering from Substance Use Disorder, please reach out to the available resources or call us at 962-7280.

24 CRISIS LINE: 509-925-4168
HOPESOURCE: 509-925-1448
SUNDOWN M RANCH TREATMENT PROGRAM 509-457-0990
DSHS-HEALTH INSURANCE: 509-933-6100
ASPEN-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: 866-925-9384
TREATMENT/ DETOX: CMH 509-925-9861
MERIT-SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS: 509-925-9821
KITITITAS CO. RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: 509-968-5224
RECOVERY ADVOCATE: DR David Douglas 509-306-9910

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