



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: May 26, 2019

TYPE OF INCIDENT: PC 187(a) - Murder

LOCATION: 117 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.

VICTIM: 29 year old Ridgecrest Resident

SUSPECT: Richard Joshua Castleberry – 31 year old Ridgecrest resident.

RESUME OF INCIDENT

On May 26, 2019, at approximately 1:50 AM, Ridgecrest Police Department Officer Beard was on-duty and patrolling the area of 117 E. Ridgecrest Blvd., when he observed an altercation involving two subjects. He observed one of the subjects fall to the ground, and the second subject identified as, Richard Castleberry, flee northbound from the parking lot. Officer Beard, with assistance from the public, caught Castleberry and detained him.

Officers responded back to the parking lot where they located the victim suffering from an injury to the head. The victim was provided first aid by first responders and then transported to the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Investigation revealed that Castleberry punched the victim in the head, causing him to fall to the ground. Castleberry was arrested for the listed charge and transported to the Kern County Jail – Mojave where he was booked.

The victim's name is being withheld pending family notification by the Kern County Coroner's Office.

If there are any witnesses to this incident, please contact Detective Rinaldi at 760-499-5114.

Jed McLaughlin, Chief of Police
PREPARED BY: Sgt. R. Marrone
Tuesday, May 28, 2019