



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

100 W. California Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555 • 760.499.5100 • fax 760.371.1674

Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** JULY 14, 2011  
**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** HOMICIDE / ELDER DEPENDANT ADULT ABUSE  
**LOCATION OCCURED:** 300 BLOCK OF N. ROBALO ST.  
**VICTIM:** FEMALE ADULT – 73 YEARS OLD  
**SUSPECT:** Joy Esther Melot – 43 Years Old – Ridgecrest Resident

On 07/14/2011, officers of the Ridgecrest Police Department responded to an address in the 300 block of N. Robalo St. regarding an unattended death. At the location they located the elderly victim, who was provided in-home care, deceased in her bedroom. The deceased's living conditions were determined to be unsuitable for her age and medical conditions. Obvious cause of death was not evident and RPD began investigating the death as suspicious in nature. The Kern County District Attorney's Crime Lab was called to the scene to assist in scene examination and evidence collection.

Evidence gained through investigation in conjunction with the Kern County Coroner's Office determined that the death was a result of homicide and identified the suspect as Joy Melot. Melot was the deceased's live-in, care provider at the time of the death.

On 08/18/2011, Joy Melot was arrested by Officer Dan Armogida and Detective Manny Castaneda of the Ridgecrest Police Department. She was subsequently transported to Central Receiving Facility-Bakersfield and booked on charges of Murder and Elder/Dependant Adult Abuse.

Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier

**RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police**  
**Friday, August 19, 2011 12:56**