



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murder/Missing Child

DENTON, TX, December 18, 2014 –

On Saturday, December 13, around 4:49 pm, Denton Police officers responded to a deceased person call at Sanchez Insurance and Tax. They met with a business employee who said he was called to the business by a customer when they were unable to enter the building during normal working hours. Upon entering the business, the employee said he found another employee lying on the floor deceased. Officers entered the business and found the female's body in the restroom.

The decedent was found to be badly beaten. There were no signs of forced entry and it did not appear that anything had been stolen. The victim has been identified as 27 year old Maria Isabel Romero Medina.

Maria was the sole person working at the business on December 12, 2014 and scheduled to close that day. She was also the only employee scheduled to work the following day beginning at 10 am. Maria often brought her 4 year old son, Ricardo Alekzander Lara to work with her. The child was not located in the building.

Investigators were told Alekzander stayed with family members, baby sitters and his father, Ricardo Lara Martinez, when he wasn't with his mother. All of them were contacted but had no knowledge of Alekzander's whereabouts. The initial investigation showed this to be an apparent homicide. Due to the circumstances, an Amber Alert was issued for 4 year old Ricardo Alekzander Lara. Denton Police have not been able to make contact with the child's father, Ricardo Lara Martinez.

A man who resides near the business said he saw Ricardo entering Sanchez Insurance on the afternoon of December 12, 2014. He also said he observed Ricardo leaving the business a while later with a small child approximately 4 years of age.

A neighbor who lives near Ricardo said she saw Alekzander playing in their neighborhood in the afternoon on December 12, 2014. One of Ricardo's roommates said Ricardo borrowed his blue Ford Ranger and was driving it that day. They had taken Ricardo's luggage around 5:30 pm to the home of a person who would eventually drive him and Alekzander to Mexico. Another roommate said he saw the blue Ford Ranger parked in front of Sanchez Insurance between 6-6:30 pm that day. The neighbor said she observed Ricardo leave his home with Alekzander around this time. She said he was returning to the neighborhood a little while later as she was leaving. She said he was driving very fast and recklessly, as he almost ran into her vehicle.

Ricardo's roommate drove him and Alekzander to the person's home who was driving them to Mexico that night. On the drive to Mexico, Alekzander was asked where his mother was. He



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said she was at work. Ricardo was observed by the driver with injuries on his neck and the side of his face.

After dropping Ricardo and Alekzander off in Mexico, the driver returned to Texas. Early the following day, he learned of the Amber Alert for Alekzander. He contacted Denton PD investigators at that time. By leaving the country, Alekzander no longer met the criteria for an active Amber Alert and it was discontinued. The investigation reveals that Ricardo Martinez and Lara had already left the country at the time the victim's body was found.

An arrest warrant was obtained for Ricardo Lara Martinez for the Murder of Maria Medina. The case was presented to the grand jury on December 18, 2014. After reviewing the case, the grand jury passed down a murder indictment for Ricardo Lara Martinez.

The Denton Police Department is still actively seeking to find Ricardo Lara Martinez and Ricardo Alekzander Martinez. Anyone with information relating to this investigation is asked to please contact the Denton Police Department.

The investigation is ongoing.

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