



# Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

**Sheriff Jon E. Lopey**

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## News Release

For Immediate Release:

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE SEEKS SUSPECT IN DUNSMUIR HOMICIDE**

**\*\*April 22, 2018\*\***

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, at about 2:32 p.m., Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) deputies responded to a residence located in the 6400 block of Dunsmuir Avenue in Dunsmuir in response to a call of a woman expressing concern for her personal safety due to the actions of a family member. When a SCSO deputy and sergeant arrived at the residence, the man identified as the reporting party's son and suspect in the original report to authorities was not at the residence. Further information developed at the scene revealed another resident of the home could be endangered and when a welfare check was conducted to determine his condition, he was found deceased in a room he occupied at the residence. Evidence at the scene indicated the death of the deceased male was a possible homicide and a person of interest was identified as Mr. Mike Hernandez III, 43 years-old, of Dunsmuir. Mr. Hernandez was not located in the area but the homicide victim's Chevrolet Astro Van was missing from the residence. A stolen report was taken and a notice to all regional law enforcement agencies was broadcast to be on the lookout for Hernandez and the stolen van.

The SCSO's Major Crimes' Unit (MCU) responded to the scene and detectives and the MCU Forensics Technician conducted an extensive crime scene investigation at the home where the homicide is suspected to have taken place. The broadcast to regional agencies paid off shortly afterwards when the Yreka Police Department (YPD) located the stolen van in vicinity of Moon Lit Oaks Drive and South Main Street in Yreka at about 10:30 p.m. The van was unoccupied and an extensive road and ground search of the area by YPD, SCSO, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) failed to locate Mr. Hernandez.

A follow-up investigation by the SCSO's MCU and field units assigned to the SCSO's Dunsmuir Substation developed probable cause to arrest Mr. Hernandez for the homicide of the victim, later identified as Mr. Kenneth Ray Jones, 66, of Dunsmuir. As of Sunday, April 22, 2018, at 3:15 p.m., SCSO detectives and deputies were developing leads on the

whereabouts of the suspect, Mr. Hernandez, but he is still outstanding but it is suspected he is still be in the local area.

Sheriff Jon Lopey stated, “We would like to offer our sincere condolences and prayers to the victim, his family and friends in the aftermath of his tragic death. We urge anyone with information about this crime to contact the SCSO’s 24-hour Dispatch Center at (530) 841-2900. If anyone observes Mr. Hernandez, he should not be contacted but dial 9-1-1 and report the observation to law enforcement authorities. Mr. Hernandez is 43, is described as 5 feet, 9 inches in height, weighing 195 pounds, with black, short hair and he has brown eyes. Hernandez should be considered dangerous and he may be armed.”