

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Update – Death Investigation of Two Teens at Independence High School

GLENDALE, Ariz. – On Friday, February 12, 2016, a little before 8:00am, Glendale Police received several 911 calls of a two people shot on the Independence High School campus located at 6600 N. 75th Avenue. Glendale Police officers did an outstanding job responding to the scene. Officers were on the school campus in less than two minutes and immediately entered the campus, stabilizing and containing the scene. The school was locked down, and police worked closely with the school administration staff to ensure the safety of the students and faculty. Police were able to determine it was not an active shooter situation.

Officers located two 15 year old female students down near the cafeteria area under a covered patio on the southeast portion of campus. The two teens had sustained single gunshot wounds and were declared deceased at the scene. A weapon was found near the two teens. Both teens were positively identified. They are 10th grade students at Independence High School. Their names will not be confirmed or released at this time by the police department due to their juvenile status.

Glendale Homicide Detectives assumed the investigation. Although the investigation is not complete, investigators working the case say evidence found at the scene leads them to believe that one female took the life of the other female before taking her own life. During the processing of the scene, a suicide note was located. Information gathered by detectives reveal the two girls were very close friends, appearing to also be in a relationship. Detectives do not have any persons of interest and do not believe there are any outstanding

suspects. The investigation has led detectives to believe this incident was a murder suicide. In addition, information obtained indicates gunshots were heard at the school this morning, but it is believed no students witnessed the shooting.

Glendale Police Department victim assistance personnel are working to provide support at this time for the involved family members. Glendale Police will provide assistance and support to Independence High School as they process and heal from this tragedy. Additional officers will be on campus throughout the weekend and next week during school hours to provide support. The school will also have counselors and support staff available to students and their families this weekend and next week during school hours. Please contact the Glendale Union School District PIO for additional information related to the school. The Glendale Police Department will only be providing information on the investigation.

Detectives continue to gather information and process evidence. Absolute cause and manner of death will be determined by the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office. There is no additional information to release at this time. This investigation is still ongoing. No further updates will be provided until next week during business hours. Thank you for your cooperation today.

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**Spanish translation available*

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is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

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