



City of Hollywood, Florida

Hollywood Police Department

August 27, 2019

Statement of Hollywood Chief of Police
Chris O' Brien

Good morning, I'm City of Hollywood Police Chief Chris O'Brien. We are here today to provide an update regarding our criminal investigation involving the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to recognize the twelve individuals who lost their lives as a result of the conditions at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills on September 13, 2017. On behalf of the Hollywood Police Department, I offer my sincerest condolences to the family members and loved ones of all the victims. This was a terrible tragedy that never should have happened.

Last night our police department invited family members and friends of the twelve victims to Police headquarters to personally share with them the information we are providing publicly today. It was an opportunity for the families to ask us questions about this ongoing investigation, as well as the criminal justice process. It was an emotional meeting and our hearts go out to these grieving families.

It is through the hard work and dedication of the Florida Office of the Attorney General; Broward County Office of the State Attorney; the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the Broward County Medical Examiner; and the Detectives, Officers and Crime Scene personnel of the Hollywood Police Department, that today we announce the arrest of four individuals: JORGE CARBALLO, SERGO COLIN, TAMIKA TORY MILLER, AND ALTHIA KENESHA MEGGIE.

Since the emergency evacuation of the facility on the morning of September 13, 2017, investigators have conducted hundreds of interviews to gather witness statements; searched, collected and closely analyzed more than a thousand pieces of evidence; and painstakingly





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reviewed countless case files. This criminal investigation has been one of the most extensive in the history of our agency. The Hollywood Police Department has worked closely with our county and state partners to ensure a complete, careful and comprehensive investigation to equip prosecutors with the ability to successfully hold accountable those responsible for this loss of life.

Throughout this investigation the Hollywood Police Department has maintained full support from our City Manager Dr. Wazir Ishmael, Public Safety Director George Keller, Mayor and Commissioners to use any and all available resources to ensure justice for the victims and their families.

The Hollywood Police Department remains diligent in investigating all aspects of this case and additional arrests are anticipated. Throughout this investigation, we have prioritized thoroughness and accuracy over a rapid resolution, as our primary focus has always been on justice for the victims and their families.

I thank the families for their patience and understanding during this very difficult time. The families sitting here today should not have lost their loved ones in this way. They placed their faith and trust in the Rehabilitation Center of Hollywood Hills, its medical and administrative staff, and that trust was betrayed. They have been living a nightmare.

The 4 individual's now facing criminal charges failed to take the actions needed to protect their patients and render aid at a time when they needed it the most.

I would like to personally thank all of the Hollywood Police and Fire Rescue personnel, as well as our state and county partners for their professionalism and compassion displayed throughout this investigation.





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So many individuals have worked tirelessly since the onset of this investigation to hold those responsible, for the senseless deaths of the 12 victims, accountable for their actions. Joining me today are:

- Catherine Maus and Justin McCormack, Assistant State Attorneys from the Office of the State Attorney-Broward County.
- Omar Perez, Special Agent in Charge; Richard Caracas, Special Agent; and Julie Rivera, Assistant Special Agent; from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- From our Hollywood Police Department: Assistant Chief Manny Marino, Major Steven Bolger, Major Nikki Coffin, Major Jeff Devlin and Lieutenant Paul Laskowski.

I will now turn it over to the department's Criminal Investigations Major, Steven Bolger. We will open it up to questions after he provides an overview of the arrests, charges and investigation.

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