



**Phoenix Police Department**  
**Public Affairs Bureau**  
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**Date/Time:** July 31, 2014  
**Incident:** 2014-1322896  
**Location:** 4100 West Maryland Avenue  
**Victim:** Augustine Valenzuela 53-year-old man, deceased  
**Suspect:** Fernando Gaitan 43-year-old man, MCSO booking #G229959

### **Suspect Arrested in 2014 Cold Case Homicide**

(January 14, 2026) — After more than a decade, a family is one step closer to justice following the arrest of a suspect in the 2014 murder of 53-year-old Augustine Valenzuela.

On July 31, 2014, Augustine was stabbed during a violent home invasion near 4100 West Maryland Avenue. During the attack, his wife and stepsons were held at gunpoint. By the time officers arrived, the suspects had fled. Augustine was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Detectives processed the scene and collected multiple pieces of evidence, but the case eventually went cold. Years later, Cold Case Detectives began investigating the case again. With assistance from the Phoenix Police Crime Lab, DNA evidence linked Fernando Gaitan to the crime. As the investigation progressed, detectives gathered enough evidence to move forward with an arrest.

On January 14, 2026, the Street Crimes Unit, and Fugitive Apprehension Investigation Unit located and arrested Fernando for his role in the 2014 home invasion and homicide of Augustine Valenzuela. Gaitan now faces multiple felony charged related to this incident.

The Phoenix Police Department extends its gratitude to the initial responding officers, crime scene specialists and investigators, Cold Case Homicide Unit detectives, and Phoenix Crime Lab personnel for their dedication and hard work in bringing this case closer to justice.

*Sergeant Jen Zak*  
*Public Affairs Bureau*