



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



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: March 12, 2026, around 8:18 p.m.
Incident: 2026-343190
Location: 2400 East Greenway Parkway
Victim: Emmett Henry Yazzie Jr, 27-years-old, deceased
Suspect: Mario Esparza, 24-year-old man, MCSO Booking #G242076

UPDATE: March 13, 2026

The suspect in this homicide has been identified as 24-year-old-Mario Esparza. He was located, taken into custody, and booked into the Maricopa County Jail on charges related to this incident.

Sergeant Jen Zak
Public Affairs Bureau

Homicide Investigation

On March 12, 2026, at around 8:18 p.m., officers responded to the area of Cave Creek Road and Greenway Parkway regarding a shooting. When officers arrived on the scene, they located an adult male, later identified as Emmett Henry Yazzie Jr., with at least one gunshot wound, in critical condition. The Phoenix Fire Department arrived on the scene and transported Yazzie to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Homicide and Night detectives responded to assume the investigation and began processing the scene. The area was canvassed for evidence, surveillance footage, and witnesses. The Office of the Medical Examiner responded to the hospital to take custody of the remains of Yazzie, and the case is pending a postmortem examination. Additional details related to this incident remain a part of the ongoing investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the police or SILENT WITNESS at 480(WITNESS) or 480(TESTIGO).

Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez
Public Affairs Bureau