

Contra Costa County  
**Office of the Sheriff**  
David O. Livingston  
Sheriff



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

June 11, 2020

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**TO: News / Assignment Desk or News Editor**

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## **Suspect Arrested in El Sobrante Homicide**

On Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at about 4:05 pm, Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriffs from Bay Station were dispatched to a suspicious circumstance at an apartment building on the 4800 block of Appian Way in El Sobrante.

Deputies arrived at the location and discovered a body that was decomposed. The Homicide Unit of the Investigation Division responded along with the Crime Lab.

The autopsy of the body took place this morning. The person is identified as 64-year-old John Birdseye Sussdorff of El Sobrante. The cause of death is listed as blunt force chest injury and sharp force head injury.

Detectives identified a suspect in the case. 48-year-old Anthony Mark Rodriguez of El Sobrante was arrested and later booked into the Martinez Detention Facility for murder. He is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail. Detectives say the two knew each other and had lived in the same residence.

Anyone with any information on this case is asked to contact the Investigation Division at (925) 313-2600. For any tips, email: [tips@so.cccounty.us](mailto:tips@so.cccounty.us) or call (866) 846-3592 to leave an anonymous voice message.

UPDATE: On Monday, June 15, 2020, the D.A's Office filed a murder charge and the use of a weapon enhancement against suspect Anthony Rodriguez in connection with the murder of John Sussdorff in El Sobrante. Rodriguez remains in custody at the Martinez Detention Facility and is being held in lieu of \$1,050,000 bail.

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**For more information, please call:**  
Jimmy Lee, Public Information Officer: (925) 313-2643

*The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office offers a full range of law enforcement services to over 1,000,000 residents in the 715 square mile county. Besides patrolling the unincorporated areas, Deputy Sheriffs provide comprehensive police services to a number of contract cities and special districts. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office operates county detention facilities, provides security for the courts and runs the Office of Emergency Services. Log on [www.cocosherriff.org](http://www.cocosherriff.org) for more information.*