



Gulfport Police Department News Release



Subject: Drowning – Boca Ciega Bay near the Gulfport Casino

Date: 08/01/16

Narrative

Gulfport, FL-- On August 1, 2016, Gulfport Police Department officers were dispatched to a water rescue call at 12:47 P.M. A witness, on a boat in the bay, called 911 and advised that he heard a male yelling and when he looked out to see what was happening, he saw what appeared to be a man in distress in the water. The witness advised that he climbed into his dinghy and went to try to help the man. Unfortunately, he was not able to get him into his dinghy, but was able to give him a personal flotation device. The witness then went back to his vessel and called 911 for assistance.

Gulfport Officers Nicita and Ross launched our marine unit immediately and arrived in the area at 12:53 P.M. Officers Nicita and Ross pulled the man from the water. The man was wearing an orange personal flotation device and white underpants. Officer Nicita began chest compressions while Officer Ross piloted the boat to Gulfport Casino dock, where the Gulfport Fire Department was waiting. The man was transported to Palms of Pasadena; however the man never regained consciousness.

Officers on the Gulfport Casino dock located clothing which contained a Florida identification card with a picture that matched the decedent. He is described as a 53 year old white male who is transient. His name will not be released until his next of kin has been notified.

The preliminary investigation indicates this was an accidental drowning that likely involved alcohol.

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