
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



KEITH ROYAL
SHERIFF/CORONER
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

PRESS RELEASE II

Date: June 9, 2017
Issuing Officer: Lieutenant Alicia Burget

For Immediate Release:

On June 8, 2017, detectives from the Nevada County Sheriff's Office began a homicide investigation involving the death of Kenneth Pestana. Upon initial investigation, detectives determined that Mr. Pestana's vehicle and dog were missing. Based on witness statements, detectives developed a strong person of interest who they believed fled to the State of Nevada. Detectives from the Nevada County Sheriff's Office and Investigators from the Nevada County District Attorney's Office formed a surveillance team and coordinated with law enforcement officials in Nevada. The surveillance team spotted the person of interest, 31-year-old Joseph Ward, in possession of the victim's missing vehicle and dog. At that point, Joseph Ward was upgraded from a person of interest and considered a suspect in the homicide investigation.

While authorities from Nevada State attempted to take Ward into custody, Ward released the dog on the officers forcing them to use deadly force on the animal. Ward was taken into custody on local charges and booked in the Carson City Jail. Detectives from Nevada County Sheriff's Office issued a Ramey Warrant of Arrest and are currently in the process of coordinating with Nevada State officials to extradite Ward back to the State of California where he will face murder charges in the death of Mr. Pestana.

The autopsy of Mr. Pestana is scheduled for today to determine the exact cause of death.

The End

Keith Royal
Sheriff/Coroner

Prior release:

Date: June 8, 2017
Issuing Officer: Lieutenant Alicia Burget

For Immediate Release

On June 7, 2017 at approximately 10:30 pm, a 911 call came into the Nevada County Regional Dispatch Center advising of a possible deceased male located in the 22000 block of State Hwy 20 just outside of Nevada City. Deputies arrived on scene and confirmed the death of a male victim, 61-year-old Kenneth Pestana. A preliminary investigation indicates foul play suspected in Mr. Pestana's death. Nevada County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit Detectives along with Nevada County District Attorney Investigators are actively investigating the incident. Death notification has been made to Mr. Pestana's family. No further details are available at this time.