



# Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 10/17/2016  
Time: 9:15 a.m.

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## News Release

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### Notification of Inmate Death

**Santa Barbara** – At approximately 4:35 p.m. on October 16, 2016, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Custody Deputies discovered an unresponsive inmate in a single person cell due to an apparent attempted suicide. Custody deputies immediately began life saving measures and were soon assisted by Jail Medical Staff and Santa Barbara County Fire Paramedics. Despite all efforts to save the inmate, at 5:22 p.m. he was pronounced dead.

The decedent has been identified as 38-year-old Hector Higareda of Santa Maria. Next of kin has been notified.

Santa Maria Police Officers booked Higareda into the Santa Barbara County Jail on June 18, 2016 for charged related to a domestic dispute. He was serving a 365-day sentence for a charge of false imprisonment. Higareda was scheduled to be released on December 9, 2016.

While his death is an apparent suicide, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner's Office is conducting a death investigation to determine an official cause and manner of death. A final determination is pending toxicology and lab results.

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