

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2021-0057

HONOR ◊ COURAGE ◊ INTEGRITY

HOMICIDE / UPDATE



Phillip Michael Martinez
Age 19
Harlingen Resident



Deann Ruiz
Age 18
Harlingen Resident

Through the course of the investigation, the male suspect was identified as Phillip Michael Martinez. Martinez was located driving a Gray Nissan four-door passenger vehicle and was stopped on S. 77 Sunshine Strip (McDonalds). Martinez was detained and transported to the Harlingen Police Department. After further investigation, Martinez was charged with Murder (1st Degree Felony) and three counts of Aggravated Assault / Deadly Weapon (1st Degree Felony). During the investigation, Detectives identified and made contact with an adult female subject (identified as Deann Ruiz), who was ultimately linked to the case. Ruiz was subsequently charged with Tampering with Evidence (3rd Degree Felony). Both subjects were arraigned on Thursday, October 7, 2021 by a Harlingen Municipal Court Judge. **Note * Accused / Arrestees are innocent until proven guilty in a Court of Law...**

| | CHARGE | BOND |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Phillip Michael Martinez | Murder / F1 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| | Aggravated Assault / F1 | \$65,000.00 |
| | Aggravated Assault / F1 | \$65,000.00 |
| | Aggravated Assault / F1 | \$65,000.00 |
| Deann Ruiz | Tampering With Evidence / F3 | \$17,000.00 |

The deceased male victim was identified as Christopher Angel Perales (17 year old Harlingen Resident). This Investigation is ongoing. Updates will be provided as they become available.



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