



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Detective Travis Mandell
Public Information Office
(954) 828-5464
tmandell@fortlauderdale.gov

January 1, 2011

HOMICIDE

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a homicide that occurred on Saturday, January 1, 2011. The homicide took place at 215 Southwest 8 Street at approximately 3:00 A.M.

Based upon a preliminary investigation, homicide detectives learned that the victim, Reza Payan, W/M, 8/11/74, and the suspect, Ronald Melnik, W/M, 11/9/72, attended a New Years Eve party at 215 Southwest 8 Street in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Homicide detectives have discovered that at one point during the social gathering an argument erupted between Payan and Melnick. The argument escalated into a physical confrontation, at which point Melnick brandished a firearm. Melnick proceeded to discharge the firearm, striking Payan.

Payan was transported to Broward Medical Center, where he later succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Melnick turned himself into the Fort Lauderdale Police Station and is being charged with one count of murder.

The cause of the argument is still under investigation and homicide detectives encourage anyone with further information to contact Detective William DeJesus at 954-828-5366 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.

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