



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

## Homicide Unit

### Media Information

**SUBJECT:** Zahau Case Review Completed

**LOCATION:** 1043 Ocean Boulevard, Coronado

**DATE/TIME:** December 6, 2018 / 1:00 PM

On July 13, 2011, thirty-two-year-old Rebecca Zahau was found hanging in the courtyard of 1043 Ocean Boulevard, in the City of Coronado. The Coronado Police Department requested investigative assistance from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Homicide Unit. The Sheriff's Homicide Unit responded to the scene and conducted a death investigation.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's office performed an autopsy and declared the death a suicide. The investigation by the Sheriff's Homicide Unit found no evidence that contradicted the Medical Examiner's findings. There was no evidence a crime was committed and the death investigation was closed.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a civil jury rendered a verdict that Adam Shacknai was liable for Rebecca Zahau's death. The civil trial verdict prompted renewed public speculation that Rebecca Zahau's death was not a suicide. The Sheriff's Department created a review team and conducted a fresh assessment of the case. They re-evaluated existing evidence with a fresh perspective and explored theories raised during the recent civil trial. The review team consisted of one Coronado Police Department sergeant and three Sheriff's Homicide sergeants. It should be noted that no one on the review team was part of the original investigation and they had no prior connections to the case. The team's findings were shared with the Medical Examiner and the Coronado Police Department, as well as the Zahau family.

After conducting a thorough review of the case, the review team found no evidence indicating that Rebecca Zahau died at the hands of another. In addition, the team found no evidence that would dispute or be inconsistent with the Medical Examiner's findings that Rebecca Zahau's manner of death was a suicide.

For more information and related photos and videos, please go to: <https://www.sdsheriff.net/coronado/>.

We offer our deepest condolences to the involved families and hope that the conclusion of this review may help provide some answers to all those affected by this case.

Prepared by: Rich Williams, Lieutenant  
Sheriff's Homicide Unit (858) 285-6330