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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 13, 2012  
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### Homicide Subjects Arrested

Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) announces the arrest of three subjects in connection with the death of Cordell Cooper, whose body was found on August 11, 2011 in the back seat of a burning vehicle at 973 Bay Drive, Miami Beach.

MBPD Detectives looked for leads in the City's North Beach area, going door to door, and posting signs in hopes of finding any leads.

This homicide investigation proved to be even more of a challenge as the body of the victim was burned beyond recognition, making identification was almost impossible.

An autopsy revealed that the victim had been beaten, stabbed and strangled prior to being set on fire. Following a few leads, including the registration to the vehicle and DNA testing, led to the identification of the body as Cordell Cooper, a Miami Beach resident.

With the positive identification of the victim, MBPD Detectives were able to locate an individual, who would later serve as a confidential informant, which was able to lead Detectives to two primary subjects. Witness accounts provided enough probable cause for Detectives to obtain a warrant for the arrest of Martin Gallegos, who was already in Miami-Dade County Jail after being arrested by the MBPD for a probation violation.

Mr. Gallegos confessed to his participation in the murder, explaining that the victim was initially the target for a robbery and carjacking. As the event unfolded, the subjects decided to kill the victim, in order to avoid identification of Mr. Gallegos and his accomplice, 14 year old Anthony Andy.

The victim was killed and left in the vehicle, which was abandoned at the incident location. The investigation revealed that Mr. Gallegos was instructed by an acquaintance to burn the body to avoid identification and being linked to the crime. The acquaintance, identified as Ellis McDaniel, drove Mr. Gallegos to a gas station and provided him a gas container, which Mr. Gallegos subsequently used to set the victim and his vehicle on fire.

"This case is another example of the great work of the Department's Criminal Investigations Division and the Miami Beach Police Department as a whole," said Assistant Police Chief Raymond A. Martinez. "These arrests will take hardened criminals off the streets of Miami Beach."

Warrants were obtained for the arrest of all individuals involved. Charges are as follows:

W/M	Martin Gallegos	Murder 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	(Warrant)	
W/M	Anthony Andy	Murder 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	(Warrant)	BSO Arrest
		Carjacking/Robbery	(Warrant)	BSO Arrest
W/M	Ellis McDaniel	Accessory after the fact to Murder	(Warrant)	

Attachments:            Arrest Affidavits (3)  
                                 Photos (2)