FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arrest Made in Murder of Gin Lu “Tommy” Shwe
By Sheriff’s Major Crimes Unit

Shwe was strangled and found buried in shallow grave in Tulare County

Cupertino (CA)--On Wednesday January 18, 2017, 70-year old Gin Lu “Tommy” Shwe was reported missing by his family to West Valley Patrol deputies. The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Homicide & Major Crimes detectives followed a trail of leads that led to the arrest of Christopher Ellebracht and the discovery of Mr. Shwe’s strangled body in a shallow grave in Tulare County. The arrest came after detectives learned Ellebracht attempted to cash a $10,000 dollar check from Mr. Shwe’s account and was observed on video purchasing a shovel at Home Depot the morning of Mr. Shwe’s reported disappearance. Ellebracht will be arraigned for murder, financial elder abuse, and forgery in Superior Court later this afternoon.

Mr. Shwe was an active and well-known resident of the Cupertino community and a prominent member of the greater Chinese community in the Bay Area. He formally served on the Cupertino School Board and worked as a local real estate professional.

What: Press Conference to provide details of arrest of Ellebracht and the recovery of Mr. Shwe’s body

Who: Sheriff Laurie Smith
Sheriff’s Homicide & Major Crimes Investigator

When: Monday, January 30, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Cupertino Community Hall
10350 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014

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