FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 12, 2007

Sheriff’s Underwater Recovery Team Quickly Finds Body Of Missing Man

On August 11, 2007, at about 8pm, Sheriff’s Deputies were dispatched to 6300 Bob Wentz Park Road in reference to a man in distress in the water. Upon arrival witness stated that three people were walking in the water near the shore, at Windy Point Park. The three had wandered into deeper water and became distressed. A witness saw the three in trouble and brought two to the shore but was unable to save the third before he slipped under the water and wasn’t seen again.

Austin/Travis County EMS, StarFlight, Hudson Bend Fire Department, Travis County Park Rangers and the Sheriff’s Office were on scene. EMS and StarFlight were able to put three Emergency Swimmers into the water but they were unable to locate the man. At about 8:45pm the rescue operation was called off and the recovery operation began.

On August 12, 2007, at about 7:30am, the Sheriff’s Underwater Recovery Team found the body of the man fairly quickly, based on witness accounts of where the man was last seen. He was in about 8 feet of water and about 30 feet off shore when he was located.

The man was taken to the Travis County Medical Examiner’s Office to determine the cause of death and his identity. The ME’s Office identified him as,

Vellayappan Chidambaram, Date of Birth 11-19-1978, of Austin. The preliminary cause of death is fresh water drowning.

Note: This is the first drowning and the second fatality at Lake Travis in 2007.

###

Submitted By: Roger Wade, Public Information Officer, (512) 854-4986