



## PRESS RELEASE

---

I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: March 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

II. TYPE OF INCIDENT/SITUATION/ANNOUNCEMENT:

Murder Investigation.

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

On 03/21/09, about 12:38 a.m., Mary Downing called 911 and requested an emergency response to her residence, located at 2142 Percheron Rd., Livermore. Downing said that her finance's (23) month old grandchild, who she was currently caring for, was unresponsive.

LPD patrol officers and LPFD firefighters responded to Downing's residence. Upon arrival, officers saw injuries to the child which led them to believe that the she was possibly the victim of severe physical abuse. Additionally, Downing's statement regarding how the child sustained her injuries seemed inconsistent with the injuries observed by officers.

Based on the child's severe injuries, she was transported to Children's Hospital in Oakland for treatment.

LPD detectives began an investigation to determine if the child had been the victim of child abuse. During the investigation, detectives recovered evidence indicating that the child had been severely abused. Downing later made admissions to inflicting severe physical abuse upon the child.

On 03/21/09, about 8:15 p.m., detectives arrested Downing for attempted murder.

On 03/23/09, the victim succumbed to her injuries at Children's Hospital. Detectives amended Downing's charges to murder (187 PC) and assault on a child with force likely to produce great bodily injury resulting in death (273ab PC).

This is an active investigation and at this time, no other details are being released.

The autopsy is scheduled for tomorrow 03-25-2009. **As of 03-24-2009 at 8:30 AM, the Coroner's Officer has yet to rule this a homicide pending the results of the autopsy.**

### ARRESTED:

Mary Downing  
54 years old  
Livermore Resident



Photo of Mary Downing

IV. CONTACT PERSON: Lieutenant Sarsfield  
PHONE NUMBER: 925-371-4730  
Case # 09-002106

Should you require further information please call the contact person designated in this press release. If the contact person is not available, and you have a deadline,

Steve Sweeney  
Chief of Police

V. DISTRIBUTION:

City Manager  
Chief of Police  
Support Services Captain

Operations Captain  
Dispatch/Records  
Watch Commander

Briefing Board  
Press Board