



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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Media Release



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Chief of Police

Date: September 7, 2011

Contact: Sergeant Maria Hawke

FATAL PEDESTRIAN COLLISION SOUTH 12TH AVENUE AND WEST UTAH STREET

At approximately 7:18 p.m. on the evening of September 7, 2011, officers from Operations Division South responded to a reported traffic collision on South 12th Avenue near the intersection with West Utah Street. Once on scene, officers discovered that two pedestrians had been struck. One of the pedestrians, an elderly female, suffered severe trauma. The other pedestrian, a 10-year old female child, was injured as well. Both the elderly female and the child were transported to a local hospital. The elderly female, identified as **75-year old Maria Castillo** of Tucson, succumbed to her injuries while at the hospital and was pronounced deceased. Next of kin have been notified. The little girl suffered a broken arm.

Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit responded to continue the investigation at the scene. Detectives examined and collected roadway evidence and witness statements. They have determined that Ms. Castillo and her 10-year old granddaughter were walking across South 12th Avenue just south of the intersection with West Utah Street. They were not in a crosswalk at the time of the collision. A Black 2000 Volkswagen Jetta, driven by a 25-year old male, was northbound on South 12th Avenue in the curb lane. Another vehicle was in the median of the two northbound traffic lanes and slowed as it saw Ms. Castillo and her granddaughter crossing the road. At that point, Ms. Castillo and her granddaughter began running to get across the street more quickly, and the Jetta struck them as they entered the curb lane. There was a 1-year old child in a child safety seat in the Jetta. The baby was not injured. Speed and alcohol were not factors in the collision. The driver of the Jetta was determined to be not at fault for the collision.

Fatalities year to date:

2010 YTD - 31

2011 YTD - 26

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