CITY OF TUCSON

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NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 2/15/2012
TDD: 791-2639

FATAL COLLISION
SOUTH 12TH AVENUE AND WEST LERDO ROAD

On February 14, 2012 at approximately 11:15 p.m., the Tucson Police Department was notified that the Tucson Fire Department was responding to a single-vehicle collision on South 12th Avenue near West Lerdo Road. Officers from Operations Division South arrived within five minutes of the call and met with Tucson Fire Department personnel, who advised that the driver and sole occupant was deceased at the scene. The driver is being identified as a **male, approximately 30 years of age**. Next of kin have not yet been notified.

Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit responded to the scene to continue the investigation. Detectives examined and collected roadway evidence and interviewed witnesses. Detectives have determined that the driver was involved in an incident with two other vehicles, while in line in the drive-through of the Viva Burrito restaurant located on the southwest corner of West Valencia Road and South 12th Avenue. In that incident, the driver rear-ended one vehicle, then backed into the front of another before fleeing from the restaurant, then from the strip mall in which the restaurant is located.

As the driver exited the strip mall parking lot onto 12th Avenue from the driveway southeast of the restaurant, he accelerated while turning right, arcing across the southbound lanes of 12th Avenue. The vehicle, a white **2008 Nissan Pathfinder**, crossed over the raised median, travelling south in the northbound lanes briefly before coming back across the raised median into the southbound lanes. As the vehicle crossed the median for the second time, the vehicle began to skid sideways briefly before upsetting and rolling onto its side, just north of West Lerdo Road. The driver was partially ejected during the collision and was crushed by the vehicle. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt.

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipació.

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The driver of one of the vehicles involved in the incident at Viva Burrito remained at the scene and cooperated with investigators. The other vehicle left the area before officers arrived. Detectives are awaiting toxicology reports to determine whether alcohol was a factor in the collision. An autopsy is pending.

The investigation is ongoing, and detectives would still like to obtain a statement from the driver of the second vehicle that the suspect struck at the Viva Burrito.

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about this incident to contact **911** or **88-CRIME**.

Fatalities year to date:

For 2011 - 5
1 Pedestrian
0 Bicycle
1 Motorcycle

For 2012 - 5
0 Pedestrian
0 Bicycle
1 Motorcycle

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