



CITY OF
TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Matt Ronstadt
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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FATAL BICYCLE COLLISION WITH TRAIN NORTH 9TH AVENUE AND WEST 6TH STREET

On December 17, 2011 at approximately 3:32 P.M., officers from the Tucson Police Department's Operations Division Downtown responded to a 911 call reporting a bicyclist struck by a train near 6th Street and Ash. Officers responded to the location and located the victim, who had sustained serious injuries. He was transported by ambulance to a local trauma center. The bicyclist succumbed to his injuries at 6:17 P.M. He has been identified as 53-year old Carl Astrum, of Tucson. Next of kin have 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 Mr. Astrum was riding a bicycle southbound on 9th Avenue and preparing to turn eastbound on 6th Street. At the time of the collision, he failed to stop for the lowered railroad crossing arms, and was southbound in the northbound lane of travel. As he turned eastbound into the westbound lane of 6th Street, he crossed onto the tracks. The Union Pacific Railroad train was traveling eastbound and struck Mr. Astrum from behind. Mr. Astrum was not wearing a helmet.

Based on roadway evidence and witness statements, Mr. Astrum was determined to be the at-fault operator. There are no charges pending for the conductor. Toxicology results are pending an autopsy.

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Page 1 of 1

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