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## NEWS RELEASE

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Roberto A. Villaseñor  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 05/29/2012  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### HOMICIDE 5400 BLOCK EAST 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET

The Tucson Police Department received several 911 calls at approximately 8:17 a.m. on May 29, 2012 regarding a vehicle that was driving erratically in the roadway near the intersection of East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and South Alvernon Way. Various callers reported that it appeared that persons inside of the vehicle were engaged in a physical altercation. At least one citizen continued following the vehicle and was able to provide information to responding officers that the vehicle was believed to be headed to the direction of East Broadway Boulevard and North Craycroft Road. Officers from Operations Division Midtown and Operations Division East responded to that area in an effort to locate the vehicle and occupants. An officer driving in the area observed a vehicle, a **Blue 2011 Ford Focus**, which was similar in description to that described by the various callers. The vehicle was seen exiting a residential neighborhood in the northwestern quadrant of the intersection of East Broadway Boulevard and North Craycroft Road. The officer quickly maneuvered to follow the vehicle and was able to locate it where it had come to a stop in a commercial parking lot on the northwest quadrant of the intersection. The officer immediately advised that two subjects, an adult male and an adult female, were seen running from the vehicle. Other officers in the area arrived to assist, cordoning off the area in an effort to locate the male and female. The Air Unit as well as K-9 Units also responded to assist with the search.

The female that ran from the vehicle was located and apprehended on the property of the Embassy Suites Hotel, which is adjacent to the parking lot where the vehicle had come to a stop in the 5300 Block of East Broadway Boulevard. She has been described as a **19-year old Native American female**. She was detained for further questioning and investigation. The male was not and has not yet been located. He has been described as a **20-year old Hispanic male, 6'00" tall, weighing 200 pounds, with black hair and hazel eyes**. He was last seen wearing a **white tank top and dark colored pants**.

As officers were searching for the male and female that ran from the vehicle, they located another female, who was suffering from obvious signs of trauma, in an adjacent neighborhood. Officers began to administer CPR, as it appeared that her injuries were life threatening in nature. Emergency medical personnel from the Tucson Fire Department responded to the location, **5400 Block of East 9<sup>th</sup> Street**, where she was located. They transported her to a local hospital for further medical evaluation and treatment. However, the female succumbed to her injuries while at the hospital and

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was pronounced deceased. She has been identified as a **16-year old Native American female**. Next of kin have not yet been notified.

It could not initially be determined if the two incidents were related. However, detectives from both the Homicide Unit as well as the Operations Division Midtown Neighborhood Crimes Unit responded to conduct investigations regarding the deceased female as well as the vehicle and occupants. Ultimately, the detectives determined that the two incidents were related. It appeared that the deceased female had been in the vehicle with the male and female that ran from the car. An altercation ensued between the three as they were traveling throughout various parts of town. At some point, the female victim suffered severe injuries during the course of the altercation. The vehicle stopped in an alleyway in the 5400 Block of East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and the victim was dropped off. Shortly thereafter, an officer spotted the vehicle as it was exiting the neighborhood.

The investigation continues at this time, and no arrests have yet been made. The Tucson Police Department seeks public assistance with locating the male that fled from the vehicle. Additionally, it is believed that various people witnessed the vehicle driving erratically throughout several areas of the city on the morning of May 29, 2012. As such, in addition to urging anyone having information about the male's identity to call 911 or 88-Crime, the Tucson Police Department also asks that anyone having information about the incident or who may have witnessed portions of the altercation that occurred in the vehicle, call **911 or 88-Crime**.

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