

Second Degree Murder, Evading Officers Causing Death, Felony Hit and Run and Felon in Possession of a Firearm Arrest

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Incident: Second Degree Murder, Evading Officers Causing Death, Felony Hit and Run and Felon in Possession of a Firearm Arrest

Location: Kimball Road @ the 126 Freeway

Date/Time Occurred: 7/22/16 @ 2:19 p.m.

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura Police Patrol, Major Crimes, Street Crimes Unit and Traffic Officers and the California Highway Patrol

Suspect(s): Victor Martinez, 24 years of Santa Paula

Report #: 16-10175

Narrative:

On the above date and time, two Ventura Police detectives were driving westbound on the 126 Freeway in an unmarked police unit when a reckless vehicle driven by the suspect collided with them. After the collision, the suspect fled from the scene and continued driving recklessly westbound on the freeway at a high rate of speed. Because of the high rate of speed, the detectives were unable to catch up with him, however a Ventura Police patrol officer who was in the area of Wells Road saw the vehicle as it continued westbound on the freeway. The officer drove onto the freeway and caught up to the suspect near Kimball Road. The suspect exited the freeway at the Kimball Road off ramp, and the officer activated his overhead lights in an attempt to stop the vehicle.

The suspect did not yield but instead accelerated and ran a red light at the off ramp's intersection with Kimball Road. As he ran the red light, he collided with two vehicles which were traveling southbound through the intersection on a green light. The first vehicle he struck was a motorcycle. The second was an SUV. A third vehicle was also struck during the collision.

The suspect did not stop but instead drove away southbound on Kimball Road. After a short distance, he left the vehicle in drive, got out of the moving vehicle and ran away. The patrol officer saw him and the runaway vehicle and decided to use his patrol car to stop the vehicle. Once the suspect's vehicle was stopped, the officer chased after the suspect. During the foot pursuit, the suspect dropped a loaded handgun in the roadway. After a brief chase, the officer lost sight of the suspect.

The suspect ran east of Kimball Road where he was able to flag down a passing motorist. The motorist was unaware of the collision. The suspect told the motorist he had been injured in a fall and asked for a ride. After they left the area, patrol officers were able to locate them on Telegraph Road west of Saticoy Avenue. The vehicle yielded for officers and the suspect was taken into custody.

Ventura Fire treated the motorcyclist, however he had succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. His information is being withheld at this time. The occupants of the other two involved vehicles were uninjured. The California Highway Patrol is handling the collision investigation.

The suspect was treated for minor wounds at VCMC. Once the medical clearance is completed, he will be booked into Ventura County Jail on the charges of second degree murder, evading police causing death, felony hit and run and felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.