

Hit & Run Fatality

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02/23/2016

Incident:***UPDATED*** Hit & Run Fatality

Location:Telegraph Rd & Saticoy Ave

Date/Time Occurred: 2/19/16 @ 0002 hours

Officer(s) Involved:VPD Patrol, VPD Traffic Division, Ventura City Fire, and the Ventura County Coroner's Office

Victim(s): 14-year-old male, Ventura Resident

Suspect Vehicle:

Suspect Vehicle #1: White tow truck with a flatbed

*****Vehicle Located*****

Suspect Vehicle #2: Silver or light colored unknown make sport utility vehicle

Report #:16-02471

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from a citizen reporting a hit and run traffic collision at the intersection of Telegraph Rd and Saticoy Ave. The responding officers arrived on scene and located the victim, an unidentified male, lying face down in the roadway. Officers on scene discovered the victim had succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The suspect vehicle was described as a white Nissan 4-door, and this vehicle should have substantial front-end damage based on the evidence left at the scene. The victim has still not been identified and the investigation into this incident is ongoing. Anyone with information related to this incident is urged to call the Ventura Police Department Traffic Unit at (805) 339-4323.

Updated 2/19/16

The Ventura Police Department's Traffic Division is continuing the investigation into this accident and has identified the victim bicyclist as a 14-year-old male. Due to the age of the victim, his name is being withheld.

Investigators have obtained surveillance video from the area and has identified the primary suspect vehicle as a white tow truck with a flatbed. After the initial collision, the suspect vehicle is observed continuing eastbound on Telegraph Rd.

A short time later, a second vehicle is observed hitting the victim, who is lying in the roadway. That vehicle also leaves the scene and continued eastbound on Telegraph Rd. The vehicle is described as a silver or light colored compact sport utility vehicle.

The Ventura Police Department is asking for the public's help in locating either of these described vehicles and the identity of the drivers. Please contact the Traffic Division at 339-4323.

As earlier reported, the white Nissan 4-door is not involved in the traffic collision.

****UPDATED INFORMATION 2/22/16****

The Ventura Police Department was contacted on Friday evening, 2/19/16, by the driver of the tow truck that was being sought by Ventura Police traffic investigators. Investigators took possession of the tow truck and, after preliminary investigation, believe it to be the flatbed tow vehicle that was involved in the first collision with the victim. The driver of the vehicle was subsequently identified as Martin Henderson, age 50, a Ventura resident.

Henderson is the owner/operator of Double R Towing. Double R Towing is one of several tow companies that operates under a tow contract with the City of Ventura, in addition to other entities within Ventura County.

The preliminary investigation conducted by the Ventura Police Department's Traffic Division indicates that the 14 year old victim was on a bicycle traveling southbound Saticoy Avenue and that he crossed Telegraph Road against a red light. The tow truck was eastbound Telegraph Road proceeding through a green light and collided with the bicyclist in the intersection.

The Ventura Police Department's Traffic Division and Major Crimes Division, in conjunction with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, are continuing with the investigation of this incident. Investigators are still seeking the identity of the driver of the second vehicle, described as a silver or light colored compact sport utility vehicle.

The Ventura Police Department is asking for the public's assistance. Any motorists who may have been in the area of Telegraph Rd. and Saticoy Ave. on 2/19/16 near 0002 hours or anyone else with information is asked to contact investigators at 339-4323.