



# **HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Issued: January 20, 2011

HPD DR #11-863

*Suitable For Public Dissemination*

### **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WITH FATALITY**

The Hawthorne Police Department is currently investigating a fatal 'hit & run' traffic collision that occurred last night (January 19, 2011) in the 11900 block of Crenshaw Boulevard, City of Hawthorne. The initial collision occurred at approximately 9:30 pm, when a vehicle driving southbound on Crenshaw Boulevard struck a pedestrian who was crossing outside of a crosswalk. The driver never paused to render care or obtain help, instead fleeing the location. Witnesses to the collision described the vehicle as a white or gray mini-van, with no further detailed information.

While the pedestrian victim was lying in the traffic lanes, a second vehicle ran over the victim. The driver of this vehicle also fled the scene. A witness to the second collision was able to provide police with enough information for officers to locate the second vehicle. That driver has been questioned and the vehicle impounded.

With the victim being tragically hit by these two vehicles, several nearby pedestrians entered the roadway, surrounding the victim, and attempting to render aid. One of these subjects, a female running westbound across Crenshaw Boulevard toward the victim, was struck by yet another motorist who was driving southbound on Crenshaw Boulevard. This motorist dutifully stopped to check on the condition of the female. However, as he did so, he was attacked by some of the bystanders. These criminal bystanders assaulted the victim and ultimately stole his cell phone. This victimized driver was able to eventually free himself from the attack and fled the location in his vehicle. He returned a few minutes later, reporting the traffic collision, as well as his assault and robbery, to the police. During this motorist's subsequent interview with police officers, he observed one of his assailants getting into a nearby car. Hawthorne Police Officers ultimately arrested this suspect for his participation in the robbery.

Lieutenant Gary Tomatani / Public Information Officer  
Front Desk: 310-349-2700 Investigations: 310-349-2820

12501 S. Hawthorne Boulevard  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

The original male pedestrian victim was taken to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead. The secondary female pedestrian victim was also transported to an area hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

The incidents are currently under investigation by the Hawthorne Police Department's Traffic Bureau and the Detective Bureau. The family of the deceased victim has not been located; no identification will be made public at this time.

If you have any information in regards to any of these incidents, please contact the Hawthorne Police Department at 310.349.2700 or Traffic Investigator Andrew Garton at 310.349.2701.

Arrested for Robbery:

TRAN MOORE LEWIS; a 32 year old male from LONG BEACH