



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard.Hawthorne.California.90250

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: March 20, 2012

HPD DR #12-3453 / 12-3515

Suitable For Public Dissemination

FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Hawthorne Police Department investigating circumstances surrounding two (2) fatal traffic collisions occurring just one day apart.

The first collision occurred on Sunday, March 18, 2012, at 8:07 AM, at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and 120th St, in the City of Hawthorne. Hawthorne Police Department personnel arrived on scene and discovered that a Jeep Cherokee, traveling southbound Hawthorne Boulevard, had collided with an eastbound traveling Nissan Altima at 120th St. The Altima was being driven by a female adult, since identified as 49-year old Maria Sandoval from Hawthorne. Sandoval was transported to Centinela Hospital, and later Harbor UCLA Hospital, where she eventually succumbed to her injuries yesterday. The Cherokee was occupied by a male adult along with three of his children (ages 1 to 7yrs). He was not injured; his three children were transported to a local hospital for precautionary reasons, where they were later released. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, however, preliminary investigation by Officers has indicated that one of the vehicles may have entered the intersection against a red light. Despite this intersection not having installed red light camera monitoring capabilities, investigation was aided by video footage from a distant local business which captured aspects of the collision. It has also been determined that the male driver in this collision is unlicensed.

The second collision Investigators are handling occurred the following evening of March 19, 2012, at 8:58 PM, at the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue and Yukon Ave, in the City of Hawthorne. Hawthorne Police Department personnel arrived on scene and discovered that 94-year old pedestrian Cardie Jones of Hawthorne had been crossing Yukon Avenue from the south sidewalk when he was struck by a Honda CRV being driven in a westbound lane of Rosecrans Avenue. There are conflicting reports as to whether Jones was crossing against a red light but it appears he was in the crosswalk. Jones was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the Honda CRV has not been cited and is cooperating with the investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed, or has information related to either of these two accidents, is asked to call the Hawthorne Police Department Traffic Bureau at (310) 349-2701.

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