For Immediate Release
Mar 24, 2013

St. Petersburg Police Officer Injured in Traffic Crash

This information is very preliminary; we do not have many details at this time.

On Sunday March 24, 2013 at about 12:39 a.m., the St. Petersburg Police Department investigated a call of an Auto Theft at the Chevron gas station located at 1st Avenue South and 34th Street South.

It appears an unknown suspect stole a white 2002 Cadillac Deville from that location when the driver of the vehicle left it unattended with the keys inside and the engine running.

At about 1:03 a.m., a St. Petersburg Police Officer driving a marked patrol cruiser was in the area of 8th Avenue South and 43rd Street South looking for the stolen Cadillac when a silver Kia swerved into oncoming traffic and intentionally drove at the police officer, striking his vehicle.

The Kia caused minor damage to the police officer’s cruiser and fled away. The officer was not injured.

Supervisors authorized a pursuit of the silver Kia since it had committed an Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer. Officers pursued the Kia into southern St. Petersburg.

A short time later, a police officer who was NOT involved in the pursuit was driving his marked patrol cruiser eastbound on 54th Avenue South; the officer was moving into the area to assist the officers involved in the pursuit of the silver Kia.

At 54th Avenue South and 19th Way South, another vehicle pulled-out in front of the marked police cruiser - either from a private drive or a side street, not sure at this point - causing the police officer to swerve to avoid a collision.

The police officer struck a telephone pole, cutting the pole in two, causing the marked patrol cruiser to flip upside down, pinning the officer inside of his vehicle.

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue extricated the officer from the marked patrol cruiser.

The officer has been transported to a local hospital with a serious injury, but the officer’s condition is NOT life-threatening.

The officer’s name will not be released at this time.

The police officers involved in the pursuit of the silver Kia terminated the pursuit after the cruiser crash and the silver Kia
has not been located at this time.

This is all of the information that we are releasing at this time.

Information provided by Bill Proffitt on Sunday March 24, 2013 at 2:40 a.m.

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