Medical related traffic fatality - 1800 66th Street North

Incident: Medical related traffic fatality.

Location: 1800 66th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710.

Date / Time of Incident: May 13th, 2014 at 1100 hours.

Brief Description of Incident: A 2008 Chevrolet Impala, driven by Sharon Abbotts, was stopped for a red light in the northbound left turn lane of 66th Street North, to go westbound on 18th Avenue North. A 2009 Dodge Charger, driven by Karen Staszak, was behind the Chevrolet Impala.

Staszak suffered a medical episode that rendered her unconscious. Staszak's foot slipped off the brake and pressed onto the gas pedal during her medical episode. Staszak's car accelerated forwards a short distance bumping into the back of Abbotts' vehicle. Staszak's car continued to accelerate and pushed against the rear bumper of Abbott's vehicle.

When the light changed to green Abbotts made her left turn to pull off the roadway after being hit by Staszak's vehicle. Once Abbotts' car was clear, Staszak's vehicle accelerated out of the turn lane and into a wide left turn. Staszak's vehicle ran off the roadway on the northwest corner of the intersection, ran through a fence, and then came to final rest in the middle of a dried up retention pond.

Staszak was transported to St. Pete General Hospital in critical condition and later transferred to Largo Medical where she died at 5:40 p.m. as a result of her medical episode.

Next of Kin Notified: Yes, Staszak's husband was notified.

Release Prepared by: Officer Matthew Carter (Van3)

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.