Child thrown into the water from Dick Misener Bridge

The suspect has been identified as John Jonchuck, Jr, DOB 11/28/1989, 3604 W Beach St., Tampa. The child was his daughter, Phoebe Jonchuck, DOB 8/22/09.

Charges:
- 1st degree murder
- Aggravated Fleeing and eluding
- Aggravated assault with a motor vehicle on a law enforcement officer

The suspect’s White PT cruiser was towed to the St. Petersburg Police dept. A pink carseat is in the backseat.

The suspect was transported to the St. Petersburg Police Dept. He is being questioned and will be transported to the Pinellas Jail at 5:30am.

The child, a 5 year old girl died. At this time we believe the man who threw her onto the water is her father. He is being questioned at the Manatee Sheriff’s office.

We will not release names at this time.

Southbound approach to the Skyway is closed during search for missing child

This is preliminary information at this time and subject to change:
Just after midnight as a St. Petersburg Police Officer was heading home, Southbound toward the Skyway Bridge, a Chrysler PT Cruiser passed him going about 100 MPH.

The officer turned his lights on to stop the car. When the car was near the top of the Dick Misener Bridge on the approach to the Skyway, the officer saw the driver stop and throw a child over the side of the rail into the water.

The driver got back in the car and drove South, and was eventually stopped by Manatee County authorities about 30 minutes later near the University parkway exit.

The search immediately began to locate the child. The Southbound roadway is closed. The Coast Guard is involved.

Released by Yolanda Fernandez, St. Petersburg Police Dept. 727- 742-9970