Hit & Run Fatality Arrest

Location:
2100 block of 54th Avenue South

Date/Time of Incident:
November 10, 2015 @ 5:30 a.m.

Brief Description of Incident:

A 2010 Ford E350 box truck, being driven by Austen N. Azar (W/M 12/3/1992) of 9136 Flagstick Lane, Hudson, Florida, 34667, was traveling eastbound, in the curb lane, on 54th Avenue South, approaching 21st Way S (the Enclave at Sable Pointe Apartments). A pedestrian, James Nickolas Olsen (W/M 11/21/1946), transient, was walking eastbound, in the curb lane, on the southside of 54th Avenue South. For an unknown reason, the driver of the Ford did not see the pedestrian walking in the curb lane, causing the right side view mirror and the front right corner of the cargo box to strike the pedestrian. The pedestrian was thrown to the pavement where he struck a fire hydrant. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene at 6:08 a.m. No drugs or alcohol are suspected of being utilized by Azar.

UPDATE, DRIVER ARRESTED:

After completing an investigation it was determined that Azar was in violation of F.S.3 316.027(2)(C), Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving a Death. Probable Cause was issued for Azar’s arrest. Azar turned himself in to the Pinellas County Jail on March 30, 2016 at 7:50 p.m.
St. Petersburg Police Department
News Release

Media Relations Office
Yolanda Fernandez
Rick Shaw

*********** Previously Released on November 10, 2015 ***********

Fatality traffic accident, hit and run.

Date/Time of Incident:  November 10, 2015, 0600 hours

Address/Location:  54 Ave. and 22 St. S.  St. Petersburg, Florida

Officers responded to a welfare check of a person lying down in public (Person Down) and upon arrival determined that the subject was deceased and appeared to have been struck by a vehicle.  No vehicle was on scene and the incident is currently being investigated.

The eastbound lanes of 54th Avenue S, going east from 22 Street S, will be blocked for an extended period of time while the investigation is conducted.  Please encourage citizens to avoid this area.

Update to Pedestrian Hit and Run Fatality

Police received the call at 6am of a person down near the sidewalk near 54 Ave. S and 22nd St. When officers arrived, the 68 year old man was already deceased and they determined he had been hit by a vehicle. We are still interviewing witnesses, but have no description of a possible vehicle as of this time.

Anyone with information, please call the St. Petersburg Police Dept. non-emergency line, 893-7780 or text SPPD + your tip to TIP411.