FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISIONS YEAR TO DATE

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Date: January 5, 2008, at approximately 1950 hours
Location: Santa Rosalia Drive and Hillcrest Drive. Southwest Area

An MTA vehicle (Bus) was travelling westbound on Santa Rosalia Drive negotiated a right turn to northbound Hillcrest Avenue, when the operator of the bus collided into a pedestrian that was walking westbound on Hillcrest Drive, north of Santa Rosalia. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be fatally injured. The pedestrian was identified as Mr. James David Harley of Los Angeles. The bus operator was identified as Mr. Winford Lee Dennis. Upon reviewing the video camera of the incident, it was later determined that the pedestrian was lawfully inside the crosswalk at the time of the collision.

Date: January 13, 2008, at approximately 1150 hours
Location: Gulf Avenue and D Street. Harbor Area

A six year old suddenly lost his life when a 1982 GMC Van, collided into the child as he ran in the roadway eastbound on Gulf. The impact of the collision caused the child to be fatally injured. The motorist was identified as Mr. Eduardo Amezcua Fuentes from Wilmington. The primary cause of the collision was 21954(a) VC, pedestrian outside the crosswalk.

Date: January 23, 2008, at approximately 2200 hours
Location: Normandie Avenue and 94th Place. 77th Area

A motorcyclist was travelling southbound on Normandie Avenue from 94th Place, when he lost control of his motorcycle and collided with the roadway. The impact of the collision caused the motorcyclist to be fatally injured. The primary cause of the collision was due to speed. The motorcyclist was identified as Mr. William D. McDonald of Los Angeles.

SAFETY TIP: Motorcyclists should be very mindful of speed, and to obey all traffic laws. Speed is a contributing factor for many traffic collisions involving motorcyclists.

Date: January 25, 2008, at approximately 1900 hours
Location: 120th Street and Central. Southeast Area

A motorist was travelling westbound on 120th Street at Central Avenue in a 2001 Buick Century. The motorist collided into a pedestrian that walked southbound 120th Street into the roadway. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be fatally injured. The motorist was identified as Mr. Ulrick Jamal Phillips of Los Angeles. The pedestrian was not identified. The primary cause of the collision was 21954 (a) VC, pedestrian outside the crosswalk.

No criminal charges will be filed in this case.
Date: January 31, 2008, at approximately 1800 hours  
Location: Broadway and 97th Street. Southeast Area

Jose Velez of Los Angeles was fatally injured by a motorist. A motorist was travelling southbound on Broadway north of 97th Street, in a 1991 Mazda B2200 pick-up, when the motorist collided into Mr. Velez who was attempting to enter his parked vehicle. The motorist failed to stop to render aid or to identify self. A witness followed the motorist and recorded the motorist’s license plate. This information was forwarded to the investigating officers. The motorist’s vehicle returned to a location in Huntington Park. The investigating officers conducted a follow-up to Huntington Park, where the motorist was taken into custody. The motorist was identified as Jacobo Ramirez. He was booked for 192(c) (1) PC Vehicular Manslaughter. DA filed 1ct 192 PC Manslaughter, and Felony Hit and Run.

Date: February 3, 2008, at approximately 0015 hours  
Location: Western Avenue and 54th Street. 77th Area

Michelle Sims, 54 years-of-age, and her son Michael Nelson were traveling southbound on Western Avenue at 54th street, when a motorist failed to stop for a traffic signal and collided into their vehicle. The impact of the collision fatally injured Michelle Sims and severely injured her son. The motorist failed to stop to identify self or to render aid. The motorist remains outstanding and has been identified as Favian Espino. According to witnesses, Favian might have relocated to Mexico.

Mrs. Sims leaves behind a husband, three children and two grandchildren. The Los Angeles Police Department, South Traffic Detective Section is seeking the public’s help with locating Favian Espino. Please contact Detective Lee at (323) 290-8940.

Date: February 8, 2008, at approximately 0110 hours  
Location: La Cienega Blvd. south of Rodeo Road. Southwest Area

Mr. Christopher Sivavajcuai Pong, of Los Angeles was travelling northbound on La Cienega south of Rodeo Road, in excessive speed. The motorist lost control of his vehicle and collided into a power pole. The impact of the collision caused the motorist to be fatally injured.

SAFETY TIP: Speed is a contributing factor for fatal traffic collisions, particularly involving young adults.

Date: February 8, 2008, at approximately 2125 hours  
Location: Adams Blvd. east of Vermont. Southwest Area

Mr. Jesus Hector Ordaz was travelling eastbound on Adams Boulevard east of Vermont, when a pedestrian entered the roadway outside the crosswalk. Mr. Ordaz collided into the pedestrian. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be fatally injured. The primary cause of the collision was 21954(a) VC, pedestrian failure to yield to oncoming traffic. The pedestrian was identified as Mr. Jose Luis Martinez. No criminal charges will be filed against the motorist.

SAFETY TIP: It is equally important for pedestrians to be mindful of oncoming traffic and to cross the street within the crosswalk. Pedestrians’ failure to yield to oncoming traffic is a contributing factor for these types of fatalities.
Date: February 16, 2008, at approximately 1610 hours  
Location: 104th Street and St. Andrews. 77th Area

A 15 year old juvenile was travelling westbound on 104th Street, towards St. Andrews Place on a motor driven cycle (mini bike) in excessive speed. The juvenile collided into a motorist that was negotiating a left turn on St. Andrews from eastbound 104th Street. The motorist was travelling in a 2004 Chrysler Sebring. The impact of the collision caused the juvenile to be severely injured. The juvenile was transported to Harbor UCLA Medical Center, where he later expired due to his injuries. The motorist was identified as Tanya Joanne Chambers.

SAFETY TIP: Motor driven cycles commonly known as “mini bikes” are illegal to operate on a roadway and are extremely dangerous.

Date: February 24, 2008, at approximately 0115 hours  
Location: Pacific Coast Highway and Gulf Avenue. Harbor Area

Jenevie Sotto, 51 years of age from Carson was fatally injured by a drunk driver on Pacific Coast Highway and Gulf Avenue. The drunk driver failed to stop to render aid or to identify himself. He was subsequently arrested for 191.5(a) pc Gross Vehicular Manslaughter. He was identified as Salvador Maldonado, from Texas.

Date: March 9, 2008, at approximately 1935 hours  
Location: Rodeo Rd. and Martin Luther King Blvd. Southwest Area

Ivan Francis Goodlow, 58 years of age was fatally injured when he was struck by a motorist travelling eastbound on Rodeo Rd from Martin Luther King Boulevard. The pedestrian had attempted to cross the street outside the crosswalk. The motorist was identified as Grant Takano. No criminal charges will be filed against the motorist. Primary cause of traffic collision was jaywalking.

Date: March 10, 2008, at approximately 1715 hours  
Location: Vermont Avenue and 104th Street. Southeast Area

A pedestrian identified as Betty Jene Sinigai, 69 years of age, was fatally injured when she was struck by a motorist travelling northbound on Vermont Avenue towards 104th Street. Betty Sinigai was walking eastbound Vermont Avenue inside a crosswalk. The primary cause of the collision was 21950(A) VC, the motorist fail to yield for the pedestrian who was lawfully inside the crosswalk. The motorist was identified as Lillian Ward Smith, from Gardena.

SAFETY TIP: Motorists, upon nearing crosswalks should be cautious and mindful of pedestrians crossing in crosswalks.
Date: March 22, 2008, at approximately 0325 hours
Location: Denker Avenue and 83rd Street. 77th Area

A 17 year old male, from Compton was fatally injured when he was travelling southbound on Denker Avenue towards 83rd Street. He lost control of his vehicle and struck a tri-light traffic signal. The young man was ejected from the vehicle and the impact of the collision caused him to be fatally injured. The primary cause of the traffic collision was speed.

Date: March 23, 2008, at 2018 hours
Location: Western Avenue and 104th Street. 77th Area

Richard Lewis Petevd, ran into the roadway on Western Avenue south of 104th Street, when he was struck by a motorist that was travelling southbound on Western Avenue. The motorist failed to stop to render aid, and continued southbound on Western Avenue from 104th Street. According to an unknown witness, the motorist was operating a newer model gray Lexus sports utility vehicle. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be fatally injured. Suspect is outstanding. Please help us find the suspect in the case, by contacting the Los Angeles Police Department, South Traffic Detective Section, Detective Lee at (323) 290-6063. Mr. Petevd was married with two children.

Date: March 30, 2008, at approximately 0445 hours
Location: Walton Avenue and Martin Luther King Blvd. Southwest Area

Tamakia Curtis, 42 years of age, was walking southbound on Walton Avenue, in an unmarked crosswalk, when she was struck by a motorist that was travelling eastbound on Martin Luther King Boulevard. The motorist failed to stop to render aid and to identify self. According to a witness, the motorist was operating a Silver Honda Accord. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be fatally injured. The primary cause of this collision was 21950 (A) VC, the motorist failed to yield for the pedestrian who was lawfully inside the crosswalk. The motorist was described as a female white or Hispanic. Suspect is outstanding. Please assist us in locating this suspect by contacting the Los Angeles Police Department, South Traffic Detective Section, Detective Rodney Jones at (323) 290-4096.

Date: April 26, 2008, at approximately 1115 hours
Location: Vermont Avenue and Knox. Harbor Area

Michael Reed and his passenger was travelling southbound on Vermont Avenue from Knox, when he lost control of his vehicle and veered into opposing traffic, onto the east sidewalk and collided into a large tree. The impact of the collision caused Mr. Reed to be fatally injured. His ten-year-old passenger sustained minor injuries.

Date: April 27, 2008, at approximately 1620 hours
Location: La Cienega Blvd and Rodeo Road. Southwest Area

A motorist was travelling northbound on La Cienega Boulevard, south of Rodeo Road, in a 2007 Chevrolet Corvette. The motorist collided into a bicyclist that negotiated an unsafe lane change from the number two-lane into the number-one lane, in front of the motorist. The impact of the collision
caused the bicyclist to be fatally injured. The motorist was identified as Kia Hughes Marcel from Los Angeles. The bicyclist was identified as Harry Clarke Carlson, 56 years old, from Los Angeles.

**Date: April 30, 2008, at approximately 1530 hours**  
**Location: Jefferson Boulevard at Clyde Street. Southwest Area**

A four year old child’s life was snatched away when he was struck by a motorist travelling eastbound on Jefferson Boulevard at Clyde Street. The child was with family members. The motorist failed to stop to render aid and to identify self. The child was transported to Cedar Sinai Hospital, where he later expired from his injuries. Shortly thereafter, the motorist turned himself into police custody, where he was booked for vehicular manslaughter. The motorist was identified as a 17 year-old juvenile from Los Angeles.

**Date: April 25, 2008, at approximately 1550 hours**  
**Location: 42nd Street and Menlo Avenue. Southwest Area**

A motorist in a 1998 Honda Civic was travelling westbound on 42nd Street, negotiated a northbound turn onto Menlo Avenue, when the motorist struck a pedestrian that was walking westbound inside the crosswalk. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be severely injured. The pedestrian was transported to California Hospital, where she later succumbed from her injuries. The pedestrian was pronounced dead on May 20, 2008. The motorist was identified as Maria Onorena Morales-Bairan, from Los Angeles. The pedestrian was identified Lorenza Sanchez Gonzalez, 84 years-of-age from Los Angeles.

**Date: May 24, 2008, at approximately 0625 hours**  
**Location: Pacific Coast Highway and Sanford. Harbor Area**

On May 24, 2008, at approximately 0625 hours, a motorist in a 1988 Buick Riviera was travelling eastbound on Pacific Coast Highway, when the motorist struck a pedestrian that was walking southbound on Sanford Avenue. The impact of the collision caused the pedestrian to be fatally injured. The motorist was identified as Joseph Garcia, from Los Angeles. The pedestrian was identified Avarado Sanchez, 42 years-of-age from Los Angeles. The primary cause of the collision was 21954(a) VC, failure to yield for pedestrian lawfully inside crosswalk.

**Date: May 26, 2008, at approximately 1750 hours**  
**Location: Crenshaw Blvd. and Florence Avenue. 77th Area**

A tragic accident occurred on May 26, 2008, at approximately 1750 hours. A male driving an SUV was travelling southbound on Crenshaw Blvd in excessive speed, failed to stop for a red tri light, and collided into a passenger van that was travelling eastbound on Florence Avenue. The impact of the collision caused both vehicles to engulf in flames. There were eight occupants inside the passenger van. Of the eight occupants, three children under thirteen years of age were fatally injured. There were two occupants inside the SUV. Both of whom expired at the scene. The occupants inside the SUV were not identified. There were four additional vehicles that were involved in this collision. The passengers in
the additional vehicles had non-life threatening injuries. All names are being withheld pending further investigation.

**Date: June 13, 2008, at approximately 2315 hours**
**Location: La Brea and Westhaven, Southwest Area**

On June 13, 2008, at approximately 2315 hours, a motorist and passenger were travelling southbound on La Brea from Westhaven, in a black 2000 Jaguar. The motorist veered his vehicle into opposing northbound traffic and collided into a grey 2000 Gallant that was travelling northbound on La Brea from Westhaven. The Gallant was occupied with four passengers. Of the four passengers in the Gallant, two passengers were fatally injured. The driver of the Gallant sustained non-life threatening injuries, and the additional passenger sustained critical injuries. There were three additional vehicles that were involved in this collision. The passengers in the additional vehicles had non-life threatening injuries. The motorist in the Jaguar fled the scene without rendering aid or identifying self, as required by law. The primary cause of the collision was the motorist of the Jaguar failed to operate his vehicle on the right half of the roadway. The motorist of the Jaguar was subsequently arrested and identified as German Maximo, 22 years of age, from Inglewood. The passengers in the Gallant that were fatally injured were identified as Rico Todd 33 years of age and Terrance Todd 37 years of age, both were from Los Angeles.

**Date: June 16, 2008, at approximately 1835 hours**
**Location: Marlton Avenue and Lockland Drive, Southwest Area**

A motorist was traveling northbound on Marlton Avenue from Lockland Drive, when an 8 year-old child ran in front of her moving vehicle. The motorist was unable to stop her vehicle to avoid colliding into the child. The impact of the collision caused the child to be fatally injured. The motorist was identified as Sarita Campbell-Brown, 41 years of age, from Culver City. The pedestrian was identified as Leonard Batiste, 8 years of age, from Los Angeles. The primary cause of the collision was 21954(a) VC, the pedestrian failed to yield to a motorist that had the right away. There will be no criminal charges filed against the motorist.

**Date: June 21, 2008, at approximately 0245 hours**
**Location: La Brea Avenue and Adams Blvd, Southwest Area**

On June 21, 2008, at approximately 0245 hours, a motorist was travelling southbound on La Brea Avenue at Adams Boulevard, in a 1997 Chevrolet Tahoe. The motorist failed to stop for a red tri-light and collided into a 1997 Toyota Corolla that was travelling eastbound on Adams Boulevard from La Brea. The motorist of the Chevrolet Tahoe fled the scene on foot without identifying self or rendering aid. The impact of the collision caused the driver of the Toyota Corolla and her passenger to be fatally injured. The driver of the Toyota was identified as Ms. Deborah Yess, 24 years of age, from Los Angeles. Her passenger has not been identified. The motorist of the Chevrolet Tahoe was subsequently captured and arrested for Gross Vehicular Manslaughter. He was identified as Grant Soberanis, 23 years of age, from Los Angeles.
Date: June 18, 2008, at approximately 1550 hours  
Location: Western Avenue and 1st Street. Harbor Area

On June 18, 2008, at approximately 1550 hours, a motorist was travelling northbound on Western Avenue at 1st Street, in a 2003 Toyota Avalon. The motorist negotiated a left turn in front of a motorcyclist that was travelling southbound on Western Avenue. The motorcyclist collided into the motorist. The impact of the collision caused the motorcyclist to become ejected from his motorcycle. The motorcyclist was transported to UCLA Medical Center with severe injuries. On June 20, 2008, the motorcyclist expired as a result of his injuries. The motorcyclist was identified as Donald Gene Wilhelm, 52 years of age, from San Pedro. The motorist was identified as Mary Jane Rowe, 85 years of age, from Rancho Palos Verdes. The primary cause of the collision was that the motorist failed to yield for the motorcyclist.

Date: July 5, 2008, at approximately 0200 hours  
Location: Normandie Avenue and 26th Street. Southwest Area

On July 5, 2008, at approximately 0200 hours, a motorist was travelling southbound on Normandie Avenue at 26th Street, in a 1994 Acura Integra. The motorist was travelling at a high rate of speed and collided into a 1999 Honda Odyssey. The Acura Integra continued southbound on Normandie Avenue towards 36th Street. The motorist in the Acura Integra then lost control of his vehicle and struck a vehicle that was parked on Normandie Avenue and 36th Street. The Acura Integra continued in a southwesterly direction and collided into a garage. The impact of the collision caused a passenger in the Acura Integra to be fatally injured. The motorist in the Acura Integra fled the scene without rendering aid or identifying self. The passenger that was fatally injured was identified as Cecillo Flores, 22 years of age from Los Angeles. According to a witness, the motorist of the Acura Integra is identified as Jesus Alexander Mejia Escalante, 26 years of age, from Los Angeles. The primary cause of the collision was speed.

The motorist is currently outstanding. Please assist us in locating the suspect by Los Angeles Police Department, South Traffic Detective Section, Detective Lee at (323) 290-6063.

Date: July 25, 2008, at approximately 1825 hours  
Location: 11th Avenue and 60th Street. 77th Area

A motorist was travelling southbound on 11th Avenue from 60th Street in a 1983 Chevy Malibu. The motorist passed a vehicle on the right that was double parked in the roadway. Upon passing the double parked vehicle, the motorist collided into a mini bike that was travelling northbound on 11th Avenue, operated by a juvenile. The impact of the collision caused the juvenile to be ejected from the mini bike. The motorist continued in a southbound direction and collided into a pedestrian that was in the roadway. The motorist then stopped his vehicle and waited for emergency response aid. The juvenile and the pedestrian were both transported to Centinela Hospital. The juvenile expired as a result of his injuries. The juvenile was identified as Quinsean Matthews, 14 years of age, from Los Angeles, and the motorist was identified as Lakeef Renee Cooper, 20 years of age, from Los Angeles. The pedestrian that
sustained minor injuries was identified as Lee Dedeaux, 24 years of age, also from Los Angeles. The primary cause of the collision was 21650 VC, passing a vehicle on the right.

SAFETY TIP: Recently there has been an influx of traffic collisions involving motor driven cycles, commonly referred to as “mini bikes.” These conveyances are illegal to operate on the roadways and are extremely dangerous for those who operate them. Unfortunately many juveniles have been either serious injured or killed while operating mini bikes.

One of the major concerns with operating a motor driven cycle on the roadway is that they are extremely low to the ground. Subsequently, the visibility factor for mini bikes when used on the roadway is limited for motorists. Additionally, mini bikes are not equipped to be operated on the roadway.