



ANAHEIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

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John Welter, Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 16, 2009

Contact: Sgt. Rick Martinez

Phone: (714) 497-6608

Subject: **FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISION / PURSUIT**

Deceased: Orlando Botella, age 49, resident of Chino Hills, California

On Monday evening, June 15, 2009 at approximately 7:30 PM, a citizen called 9-1-1 to report that a male was being assaulted in the parking lot of an auto repair business at Brookhurst Street and La Palma Avenue. As officers were arriving, the citizen reported that the suspects had driven away in a red truck and the reporting party was following the suspects. Officers were informed that the suspects drove to a parking lot in the area of Brookhurst Street and Crescent Avenue. Uniformed officers in marked patrol vehicles arrived to see the red truck driving erratically through the parking lot. They followed the car to side streets around the commercial area. The suspects in the red truck then sped away westbound on Crescent Avenue through the intersection at Brookhurst Street.

Once west of the intersection, officers activated their emergency lights and sirens and attempted to stop the speeding assault suspects. The 1999 red colored Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck then drove away at a high rate of speed westbound on Crescent Avenue. As officers broadcast the suspect's approximately speed of 85 miles per hour and traffic conditions, the suspect drove through the intersection of Magnolia Avenue at Crescent Avenue through a red light. It crashed into two vehicles traveling southbound on Magnolia in the intersection. One vehicle was a 2007 4-door silver colored Toyota Camry, and the other vehicle was a 2001 grey colored Ford F150 pick up truck. The suspect's truck then collided into a 1995 grey Toyota Tacoma, which was traveling eastbound on Crescent Avenue and was stopped in the left turn lane preparing to turn northbound on Magnolia Avenue. The high impact collisions caused the death of Orlando Botello who was driving the 1995 Toyota Tacoma, and left a wide debris field causing the closure of the intersection for approximately 10 hours.

Regarding the original assault call leading to this collision, it was later discovered that a 52 year-old man was experiencing problems with his motorcycle. He pulled into the parking lot of an auto repair business at La Palma Ave. and Brookhurst Street. The suspects drove up and stopped the truck in the street while the passenger began yelling at him in spanish. The victim does not know the men nor does he understand spanish. The passenger got out of the truck and without provocation, began hitting him numerous times. The victim did not fight back because he thought the man was "crazy". When witnesses stopped to help, the passenger got back into the truck and they drove away. They were followed by a person who called police and reported their direction.

It is unknown why the suspects chose to assault the victim. Once police began pursuing the suspect vehicle, the length of the chase lasted less than one minute. During that short period, officers and a supervisor were assessing the reported crime, speeds, traffic condition, etc. when the suspect crashed into the vehicles.

It is believed that the suspect driver was under the influence of alcoholic beverages. This investigation is continuing.