
NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 8/9/2021
TDD: 791-2639

DELAYED FATAL PEDESTRIAN COLLISION NORTH ALVERNON WAY AND EAST FLOWER STREET

On August 3, 2021, at approximately 8:07 p.m., officers from Operations Division Midtown were dispatched to the intersection of N. Alvernon Way and E. Flower St. for a report of a serious-injury collision involving a pedestrian and a grey 2018 Nissan Sentra.

Upon arrival, officers located the adult male pedestrian. Tucson Fire Medics responded to the scene and began rendering aid, ultimately transporting him to Banner University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. Officers learned that the Nissan involved initial left the scene after the collision and was located nearby unoccupied.

Detectives with the Traffic Investigations Unit were contacted and responded to continue the investigation. Through interviews conducted by officers and detectives, it was learned that pedestrian was crossing N. Alvernon Way from east to west in a marked crosswalk with the use of a HAWK light. The pedestrian was established in the crosswalk when he was struck by the Nissan. The driver returned to the scene shortly after the collision and was identified as 63-year-old **Valerie Louise West**.

An officer from the DUI Unit responded and evaluated West for impairment. The officer determined that the West was not impaired at the time of the collision.

Failure to yield to a pedestrian in a cross walk by West is the major contributing factors of the collision. West was booked into Pima County Jail for the felony charge of leaving the scene of a serious injury collision.

On August 8, 2021, detectives were contacted by the Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) and advised that the pedestrian had passed away as the result of his injuries. He has been identified as 45-year-old **Emiliano Baldenegro Morales**. Next of kin was notified of his passing.

This is an ongoing investigation. Attached is West booking photograph

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Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2020 – 55

Pedestrian – 15

Bicycle – 2

Motorcycle – 19

Vehicle - 19

For 2021 –53

Pedestrian – 15

Bicycle – 5

Motorcycle – 9

Vehicle – 24

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