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## NEWS RELEASE

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Chris Magnus  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 6/3/2021  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### **DELAYED FATAL VEHICLE COLLISION WEST CONGRESS STREET & SOUTH GRANDE AVENUE**

On June 1, 2021, at approximately 9:42 p.m., officers from Operations Division West were dispatched to the intersection of W. Congress St. and S. Grande Ave. for a report of a serious-injury collision involving two vehicles.

Upon arrival, officers discovered that the driver of a silver 2015 Chevrolet Camaro had fled from the scene prior to police arrival. Tucson Fire Medics responded to the scene and began rendering aid to the remaining parties involved, ultimately transporting three victims to Banner University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries, one victim was transported with minor injuries.

Detectives with the Traffic Investigations Unit were notified and responded to continue the investigation. Through interviews conducted by officers and detectives, it was learned that the Camaro was traveling westbound on Congress at a high-rate of speed. As the Camaro approached the intersection at S. Grande Ave., the traffic signal phased to green for north and southbound travel. The Camaro continued into the intersection, as a blue 2017 Hyundai Sonata began to pass through the intersection, heading northbound. The Camaro struck the Sonata before coming to a stop.

Detectives were able to identify the driver of the Camaro as 35-year-old **Brent William Youvella**. On the morning of June 3, 2021, officers from Operations Division West/Community Response Team were able to locate and arrest Youvella at his residence in the 500 block of W. Thurber Rd. Additionally, detectives were notified that one of the victims in the Sonata had succumbed to her injuries. She was identified as 8-year-old **Yarel Ruiz**. Next of kin has been notified.

Failure to stop for a red light and excessive speed by Youvella are the major contributing factors of the collision.

Youvella was ultimately booked into Pima County Jail for the felony charge of leaving the scene of a serious-injury/fatal collision. The investigation is ongoing and additional charges may be added at the conclusion of the investigation. Attached is Youvella's booking photo.

Page 1 of 2

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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**Brent William Youvella**

### Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

**For 2020 – 35**

Pedestrian – 12

Bicycle – 1

Motorcycle – 12

Vehicle - 10

**For 2021 –33**

Pedestrian – 11

Bicycle – 2

Motorcycle – 6

Vehicle – 14

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