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## NEWS RELEASE

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Chris Magnus  
Chief of Police

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**TDD:** 791-2639

### **FATAL BICYCLE COLLISION 4500 BLOCK OF EAST GRANT ROAD**

On July 13, 2021, just before 5:00 a.m., officers from Operations Division Midtown were dispatched to the 4500 block of E. Grant Rd. for a report of a collision involving a bicyclist and a white 2019 Kia Rio.

Tucson Fire personnel arrived and rendered aid to the bicyclist. He was transported to Banner University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Kia left the scene prior to officers arriving and was located shortly after in the area of E. Grant Rd. and N. Columbus Blvd.

Interviews conducted by officers and detectives determined that the bicyclist was riding westbound on E. Grant Rd. and had just passed N. Swan Rd. in his enclosed recumbent bicycle. This part of Grant Rd. merges from three lanes to two lanes. At that time, the Kia was also traveling westbound on Grant Rd. and struck the bicyclist. An officer from the DUI Unit responded and evaluated the driver of the Kia. The officer determined he was impaired at the time of the collision. The driver has been identified as 24-year-old **Nicolas Daniel Jesse Tope**.

During the investigation, detectives were informed that the bicyclist had succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. He has been identified as 56-year-old **John Winston Abbey**. Next of kin has been notified of his passing.

Failure to reduce/control speed to avoid a collision and impaired driving by Tope are major contributing factors in the collision. He was booked into Pima County Jail on the charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder and Leaving the Scene of a Fatal Collision.

This is an ongoing investigation and additional charges may be added at the conclusion of the investigation. Below is Tope's booking photograph.



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Nicolas Daniel Jesse Tope

### Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2020 – 49	For 2021 –42
Pedestrian – 13	Pedestrian – 12
Bicycle – 1	Bicycle – 5
Motorcycle – 17	Motorcycle –8
Vehicle - 18	Vehicle – 22

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