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NEWS RELEASE

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FATAL PEDESTRIAN COLLISION HIT AND RUN SOUTH 6TH AVENUE AND WEST COLUMBIA STREET

On the night of June 4, 2021, just before 9:30 p.m., officers from Operations Division South were dispatched to the report of a collision involving a pedestrian. Prior to arrival, officers were notified that the involved vehicle had fled the scene. The adult male pedestrian was transported by Tucson Fire Medics to Banner University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. Shortly after arrival to the hospital, the pedestrian succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. The victim was identified as 56-year-old Marcellus McCutchen Burks. Next of kin has been notified.

Traffic Unit Detectives were contacted and responded to continue the investigation. According to interviews conducted by officers and detectives, Mr. Burks was crossing S. 6th Ave. approximately 25 feet south of the implied crosswalk at W. Columbia St. Mr. Burks was struck by a vehicle traveling northbound in the curb lane of 6th Ave. After the collision, the vehicle continued northbound without stopping. The suspect vehicle is described as a blue and white 1980s Ford pickup truck. Detectives noted Mr. Burks was wearing dark clothing and that the street lights along the roadway were operational. Midblock crossing by Mr. Burks appears to be a major contributing factor in this collision.

The investigation is ongoing and detectives are asking anyone with information to call 911 or 88-CRIME. You can remain anonymous. Additional details will be released as they become available.

Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2020 – 35	For 2021 –35
Pedestrian – 12	Pedestrian – 11
Bicycle – 1	Bicycle – 2
Motorcycle – 12	Motorcycle – 6
Vehicle - 10	Vehicle – 16

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