



NEWS RELEASE

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FATAL VEHICLE COLLISION SOUTH 6TH AVENUE AND EAST MICHIGAN DRIVE

*****UPDATE – August 18, 2021*****

Traffic Unit Detectives have arrested the driver of the blue Ford pickup that was involved in August 7th fatal vehicle collision on Tucson’s South Side.

Through follow-up interviews and examination of forensic evidence, detectives learned that the Ford pickup was traveling at higher speeds than originally reported. On August, 17, 2021, officers from Operations Division South/Community Response Team located and arrested the driver – 30-year-old **Eddie Reyes**. Detectives charged Mr. Reyes with Manslaughter, two counts of Child Abuse and Endangerment.



Eddie Reyes

Officer Francisco Magos – August 18, 2021

On August 7, 2021, just before 3:00 p.m., officers from Operations Division South were dispatched to the intersection of S. 6th Ave. and E. Michigan Dr. for the report of a serious-injury collision. Upon arrival, Tucson Fire personnel were on

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scene rendering aid to the driver of a white 2005 Volvo S60. Despite life-saving efforts, the driver succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Officers identified the driver as 70-year-old **Rafael Celaya**. Next of kin has been notified. Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit were notified as responded to continue the investigation.

According to interviews conducted at the scene, Mr. Celaya was traveling westbound on Michigan Dr. when he failed to stop for the posted stop sign at 6th Ave. Mr. Celaya continued west across the northbound lanes of 6th Ave. when his vehicle was struck by a blue 2014 Ford F-150 pickup – which was traveling northbound. An officer from the Impaired Driver Enforcement Unit responded to the scene and determined that the driver of the Ford was not impaired at the time of the collision. Interviews in conjunction with roadway evidence have determined that failure to stop at the stop sign by Mr. Celaya is the major contributing factor. The investigation is ongoing and no citations or charges have been issued at this time.

Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2020 – 53

Pedestrian – 15

Bicycle – 1

Motorcycle – 18

Vehicle - 19

For 2021 –52

Pedestrian – 14

Bicycle – 5

Motorcycle – 9

Vehicle – 24

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