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## NEWS RELEASE

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Chris Magnus  
Chief of Police

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

### FATAL VEHICLE COLLISION SOUTH 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AND EAST MICHIGAN DRIVE

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

<b>For 2020 – 53</b>	<b>For 2021 –52</b>
Pedestrian – 15	Pedestrian – 14
Bicycle – 1	Bicycle – 5
Motorcycle – 18	Motorcycle – 9
Vehicle - 19	Vehicle – 24



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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 anticipació.

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