



CITY OF CLEARWATER

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE # 12-005

January 9, 2012

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PEDESTRIAN KILLED AFTER WALKING INTO PATH OF FIRE VEHICLE

WHO: Johnny Matney (Pedestrian/Deceased)
DOB: 8-18-70
Clearwater, Fla.

Marvin Pettingill
Assistant Chief of Suppression
Clearwater Fire & Rescue
16 year veteran
Vehicle: Chevy Suburban

WHAT: Vehicle vs. Pedestrian Crash/Traffic Fatality

WHERE: Drew Street and Orangeview Drive
Clearwater, Fla.

WHEN: January 9, 2012
6:14 p.m.

SUMMARY: Clearwater Police are investigating a vehicle vs. pedestrian crash at Drew Street and Orangeview Drive at 6:14 p.m.

According to a preliminary investigation by Traffic Homicide Investigators, a fire department vehicle, a Chevy Suburban, was traveling with emergency lights and sirens activated at the time of the crash. This was confirmed by several independent witnesses at the scene. For unknown reasons, the pedestrian walked into traffic and was struck by the FD vehicle. The pedestrian was not using a crosswalk and it was dusk at the time of the crash. The driver of the FD vehicle did not see the pedestrian until right before impact and was unable to avoid the collision. Alcohol is believed to be a factor on the part of the pedestrian.





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The pedestrian died at the scene. Assistant Chief Marvin Pettingill was not injured in the crash. He was responding to a house fire at 1661 Greanlea Drive, where smoke and flames were reportedly showing (this was determined to be a kitchen fire). That call came in at 6:10 pm. He was in route from Fire Station 45 and traveling on Drew Street when the crash occurred.

