



Tulare Police Department

Wesley Hensley, Chief of Police

Sergeant Andrew Garcia, Public Information Officer

Press Release: 17-007

Office: (559) 684-4249

angarcia@tulare.ca.gov

Driver causes accident. Driver in second vehicle dies

Monday, April 10, 2017

*****The following information is based on a preliminary, ongoing investigation which continues to evolve as investigators interview witnesses, review physical and electronic records if available, and analyze forensic evidence. The Department's understanding of the facts and circumstances may change as additional evidence is collected and analyzed*****

Tulare, Ca:

*****UPDATE*****

In yesterday's press release the 50 year old who passed away as a result of the collision was identified as the driver of the second vehicle that was struck by Freitas. This information was incorrect. The 50 year old female was a passenger in the second vehicle that was struck and not the driver as previously indicated in my original press release. All other occupants had no visible injuries and were transported to local area hospital for complaints of pain.

I apologize for the incorrect information.

On Sunday April 9, 2017 just after 12:35 p.m. Officers' from the Tulare Police Department were dispatched to the 1400 block of N. Hillman Avenue in Tulare for a possible intoxicated subject. A witness indicated that a male subject was observed stumbling to his vehicle. Before officers' could arrive on scene, the male driver left the area in a vehicle. The witness provide the vehicle description and license plate.

Officers located the described vehicle with a matching rear license plate as it was traveling southbound on North Oaks Avenue north of East Pleasant Ave in Tulare. The vehicle failed to yield at the posted stop sign. An officer in a fully marked Tulare Police Vehicle attempted to initiate a traffic stop. The driver, later identified as 18 year old, Jace Daniel Freitas of Tulare excelederated away from the emergency police vehicle.

Freitas continued northbound on North "J" Street in Tulare where he drove through the red light for northbound traffic where he collided into 2003 Nissan Altima with four occupants as it was traveling westbound on East Prosperity Ave. After the collision, Freitas than fled the scene in his vehicle only to yield in the 1400 block of N. "J" Street where he was taken into custody, uninjured and without incident. Alcohol and or drugs is suspected to have contributed to this collision.

All occupants in the 2003 Nissan Altima where transported to a local area hospital for complaints of pain.

Just after 3:30 pm the driver of the 2003 Nissan Altima, identified as a 50 year old female from Tulare passed away during emergency care as a result of the collision. The next of kin has not been notified.

Jace Daniel Freitas was arrested, booked and later transported to the Tulare County Jail. He was booked under the following charges.



CHARGES:

- 1: Murder
- 2: Felony Evading a Police Officer
3. Felony D.U.I. causing great bodily injury.
4. Felony Hit and Run
5. Possession of Alcohol in Vehicle
6. Circular Red or Red Arrow violation

This collision is being investigated by the Tulare Police Department Traffic Division. We will have more information once a full Coroners report from the Tulare County Sheriff's Department is complete and toxicology report on Freitas blood labs.

When further information is made available, I will provide an additional press release.

Anyone with additional information regarding this incident is urged to call the Tulare Police Department at any of the following numbers:

- During business hours at (559) 684-4290;
- During non-business hours or on weekends at (559) 685-3454;
- Anonymously 24-hours a day (559) 685-2300 Ext: 4445
- Online at <https://www.tipsubmit.com/webtipstart.aspx>

Contact *Us*

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency: (559) 685-2300 Ext: 4445

260 South "M" Street

Tulare, CA 93274