



“For Immediate Release”

Auburndale Police Department News Release

6/27/2013

Media Contact:

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Traffic Crash Fatality – Update #3

Traffic Homicide Investigators have learned Ms. Welch had not been released from Lakeland Regional Medical Center after being admitted on 6/18/2013. Ms. Welch passed away at 3:22am on Thursday, 6/20/2013. The Medical Examiner’s Office determined the cause of death to be Blunt Force Trauma to the head and torso as a result of the injuries sustained in the crash.

Since learning of Ms. Welch’s passing, Traffic Homicide Investigators have attempted to contact the occupants of the Ford Fusion and have not been able to do so as of yet. Those attempts will continue throughout the investigation. They will eventually be interviewed by investigators. At this time an update on their injuries is not known.

Traffic Homicide Investigators will continue their investigation conducting interviews and gathering information. The preliminary investigation has determined Ms. Welch drove her vehicle from the BB&T parking lot onto Havendale Blvd. into the path of the Ford Fusion. The preliminary investigation has revealed the occupants in the Fusion were not wearing seatbelts or were properly restrained. There is no indication of impairment from either driver. The investigation is expected to take 30 days, any charges relating to seatbelt or child restraint violations will be pending the outcome of the investigation.

Update Sent – 6/24/2013

In reference to the below media release issued on 6/18/2013 ... The police department was notified by the family today that Elizabeth Welch has passed away from injuries sustained in the crash. The Traffic Homicide Investigator was only able to learn Ms. Welch died on 6/20/2013 of Blunt Force Trauma as a result of her injuries from the crash.

As the Traffic Homicide Investigator conducts his investigation, he will determine if Ms. Welch was at home or in the hospital when she passed ... at this time that information is not known.

The Traffic Homicide Investigator will be completing a thorough investigation over the next several weeks.

Update to Original Media Release - Sent 6/18/2013

In reference to the preliminary information below sent earlier ...

The driver of the 2002 Chevy Blazer is:
Elizabeth Welch – DOB 9/28/1934

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[1818 Pauline Drive Lake Alfred, FL](#)

She was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the vehicle through the driver's window upon impact.

Ms. Welch was “Trauma Alerted” to LRMC in Lakeland ... she was conscience and alert when transported from the scene. She has non-life threatening injuries and is listed in stable condition.

The driver and passengers of the 2007 Ford Fusion are:

Driver – Sarai Gonzalez – DOB 1/24/1968 – [3408 Ave X NW Winter Haven, FL](#) – Injuries, possible fractured leg
Right Front Passenger – Israel Gonzalez – DOB 4/20/1988 – Injuries, bloody nose
Middle rear passenger – Antonio Martinez – DOB 7/26/2006 – Injuries, possible left broken leg

The addresses and relation of the passengers are not known at this time.

**None of the occupants of either vehicle were wearing seatbelts or restrained in any child seat.

The crash is under investigation however, The Chevy Blazer driven by Ms. Welch pulled onto Havendale Blvd. into the path of the Ford Fusion. Charges will be pending the conclusion of the investigation.

Original Media Release – Sent 6/18/2013

Very Preliminary Information

Auburndale Police have all of Havendale Blvd. closed between 42nd Street and Jersey Road while they investigate a traffic crash involving two vehicles. A 2002 Chevy Blazer was exiting the BB&T bank parking lot and pulled into the path of a 2007 Ford Fusion. The driver of the Chevy Blazer was taken to Lakeland Regional Medical Center in serious condition. The Ford Fusion had three occupants, one of which is a child ... (unknown age or boy or girl) that suffered a possible broken leg.

Police are working the crash as a preliminary Traffic Homicide Investigation due to the serious condition of the Chevy Blazer Driver.

The roadway will remain closed as police conduct their investigation.

This release will be updated with names as we get them

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