



“For Immediate Release”

## ***Auburndale Police Department News Release***

8/17/2015

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### **Auburndale Police Department Investigating Fatal Vehicle/Train Crash**

At approximately 6:14 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2015, officers of the Auburndale Police Department responded to a report of a motor vehicle/train crash near the intersection of Main Street and Stadium Road. Officers arrived at the scene a few minutes later on the main CSX line about 1,000 feet east of its intersection with Main Street. There, officers found a 1994 Saturn 4-door vehicle across the tracks, facing south, still in contact with the front of an Amtrak passenger train locomotive, which was facing east.

Officers found several bystanders attempting to render aid to the driver of the vehicle, who was entrapped. Auburndale Fire Department and Polk County Fire Rescue medics also arrived and attempted to provide aid to the driver. Due to the severity of the crash, the driver's injuries were fatal. There were no other passengers in the vehicle. At this time, several family members of the decedent have been notified of his death, but there are several others in his immediate family who have not yet been notified. Those attempts are still underway at this hour. Due to this fact, I can only report that the driver is a 44-year-old male from Auburndale.

Though it is early in the investigation, several witnesses said that traffic was stopped at the railroad crossing, both north- and southbound vehicles. The crossing arms were in the down position and lights were flashing, indicating a train was approaching. On the east side of the intersection on a side track, facing west, was a freight locomotive with several cars attached. It was stationary and waiting on an approaching eastbound Amtrak passenger train. Witnesses said the Saturn was several cars back from the crossing, southbound, and it pulled out to the left and passed several cars, went around the down crossing arms, and drove into the path of the Amtrak train, which resulted in the train locomotive striking the passenger side of the Saturn in the area of the doors. The train began stopping and pushed the vehicle approximately 1,000 feet east of the intersection. The train had approximately 155 passengers on its manifest and was traveling from Miami to New York. There were no reports of injuries by anyone on the train.

Auburndale Police Traffic Homicide Investigators are continuing to investigate this fatal crash in an effort to determine its cause. Initial impressions are that alcohol is not a factor in this collision, but toxicology tests are a standard part of the Medical Examiner's investigation of the death.

Look for updates.

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