

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief

September 23, 2007

Traffic Altercation Leads to Collision

On September 23, 2007 at about 1:00am, Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies observed a red Plymouth Neon traveling in a reckless manner around a light colored mini-van eastbound on Bell Road at 98th Avenue. Deputies saw the red Neon speeding and weaving from traffic lane to traffic lane on Bell Road, traveling around the mini-van.

Deputies noted that an apparent road rage incident was occurring between the two vehicles, when the mini-van turned south onto Burns Road. The red Neon turned from the center of three lanes on Bell Road to follow the van. Deputies initiated a traffic stop on the red Neon for the reckless driving they observed.

The deputies reported the Neon had failed to yield. The red Neon drove back out onto Bell Road from Del Webb Blvd., and then traveled eastbound on Bell Road.

As Deputies came out onto Bell Road from Del Webb Blvd., the Neon was over a ¼ mile east of the deputies' patrol car. The Neon was entering the intersection of 99th Avenue against a red light and collided with gray Nissan truck which was turning left onto Bell Road.

The driver of the truck, a 33-year-old Sun City man, Salvador Cereceres, sustained extremely serious injuries and was taken to J. C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

The driver of the red Neon, a 15-year-old male, and his 16-year-old male passenger were seriously injured and hospitalized; the driver at J. C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital, and the passenger at St. Joseph's Hospital. The occupants of the Neon have not been positively identified.

Shortly, after the collision the Neon was reported stolen by its registered owner from the City of Glendale, AZ.

Speed and failing to stop for a red traffic signal are the primary factors in this collision. Sheriff's traffic investigators are investigating alleged impairment on the part of the Neon's driver.

Maricopa County Sheriff's detectives are asking for assistance in locating the light colored van involved in the apparent road rage. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Jeff Eccles at 602.876.4844.