



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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HIT & RUN FATALITY

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a traffic fatality that occurred on March 18th, 2012, at approximately 4:30 P.M. The traffic fatality occurred in the 100 block of Northwest 67th Street in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Investigators have learned that a 5-year old child was riding her plastic tricycle westbound along the northern edge of the roadway, when she was struck by a 1997 white GMC van traveling westbound on Northwest 67th Street. The driver of the GMC van, Erik Garcia, W/M, 05/12/1992, immediately fled from the scene.

A friend of Garcia's, Mario Argumedo, W/M, 09/30/92, witnessed the crash, ran to the young child, picked her up and carried her over to her mother. Argumedo then returned to the GMC van and drove it away from the scene of the crash.

The child's mother attempted to transport her daughter to the hospital while she called Fort Lauderdale Fire Department for assistance. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue took custody of the child and trauma alerted her to Broward General Medical Center. As a result of the crash, the child sustained life threatening injuries, and was later pronounced deceased.

The Traffic Homicide Investigators' unwavering investigation lead to the arrests of Garcia and Argumedo.

Erik Garcia, a Fort Lauderdale resident, was arrested and charged with Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Death, No Valid Driver License and Failure to Use Due Care.

Mario Argumedo, a Pompano resident, was arrested and charged with Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Death, Tampering with Evidence and Allowing an Unlicensed Driver Operate a Vehicle in His Possession.

Investigators are asking anyone with information or who may have witnessed this fatality to contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Goedke at 954-828-5754.

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