



CITY OF  
**FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
PRESS RELEASE

Detective Katherine Collins  
Public Information Office  
(954) 828-5464  
KCollins@fortlauderdale.gov

January 11, 2008

**TRAFFIC CRASH**  
**(Pedestrian dies at scene)**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a traffic crash fatality involving a vehicle and a pedestrian. The crash took place at the intersection of NW 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and West Prospect Road at approximately 9:15pm on Thursday, January 10, 2008.

Preliminary information revealed a 2003 Ford Expedition, operated by Vesta Joseph, 60, a Fort Lauderdale resident, was traveling south on NW 31st Avenue. According to Joseph, she approached the intersection of Prospect Road and realized she had no brakes, no gas and no control of the steering. She drifted to the right and drove onto the sidewalk on the south west side of the intersection. After riding up on the sidewalk she struck a pedestrian, later identified as Rubmartin Gustavo Escobar, 20, a Hasselby, Sweden resident, who was standing on the sidewalk. After striking Escobar, the vehicle continued south on the sidewalk striking a bus bench and a guard rail. Escobar was pronounced dead on the grassy area west of the sidewalk near the bus bench. No injuries to Joseph or her 68 year old passenger.

Anyone with information regarding this crash is encouraged to contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Cheryl Creque at 954-828-5825.

###