



## FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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June 21, 2021

### FATAL TRAFFIC CRASH

#### **UPDATE 06.21.21:**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is releasing the names of those involved in Saturday's fatal traffic crash that occurred at the Stonewall Pride Parade. The driver of the 2011 white Dodge Ram has been identified as Fred Johnson Jr., W/M, DOB 10/31/1943, a resident of the City of Oakland Park. The deceased male pedestrian has been identified as James Fahy, W/M, DOB 09/19/1945, a resident of the City of Fort Lauderdale. The injured pedestrian has been identified as Jerry Vroegh, W/M, DOB 11/23/1953, a resident of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Vroegh has been discharged from Broward Health Medical Center. Additionally, a third injured pedestrian has been identified as Gary Keating, W/M, 03/25/1952, a resident of the City of Oakland Park. Keating was treated for minor injuries.

While the investigation into this incident is still considered active, all available information and evidence indicates this was a terrible accident. Investigators are continuing to exhaust all attempts at obtaining sworn statements from witness and are still encouraging anyone who may have witnessed the incident, who has not already spoken to investigators, to contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Paul Williams at (954) 828-5755.

#### **ORIGINAL 06.20.21:**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating the fatal traffic crash that occurred before the start of the Stonewall Pride Parade on Saturday, June 19, 2021. The incident occurred in 1700 block of Northeast 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Preliminary investigation into this incident has revealed that a 2011 white Dodge Ram was stopped in the staging area, awaiting the start of the parade in the 1600 block of Northeast 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The driver of the vehicle, a 77 year-old male, was a participant who had ailments preventing him from walking the duration of the parade and was selected to drive as the lead vehicle.

As the vehicle began to move forward in anticipation for the start of the parade, the vehicle accelerated unexpectedly, striking two pedestrians. After striking the pedestrians, the driver continued across all lanes of traffic, ultimately crashing into the fence of a business on the west side of the street. The driver remained on scene and has been cooperative with investigators for the duration of the investigation. A DUI investigation of the driver was conducted on scene and showed no signs of impairment.



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The driver and both pedestrians are members of the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus. The pedestrians, two adult males, were transported to Broward Health Medical Center by Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue with serious injuries. Shortly thereafter, the first pedestrian was pronounced deceased. The deceased male's identity is not being released pending next of kin notification. The second pedestrian struck remains at Broward Health Medical Center and is expected to survive.

While no arrests have been made, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department continues to investigate this incident and will not be releasing the names of the involved parties due to the status of the investigation. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department asks anyone who may have witnessed this incident, who has not already spoken to investigators, to contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Paul Williams at (954) 828-5755.

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