



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**September 8, 2017**

**VPD Report Number:** 17-73760  
**Date/Time Occurred:** 9/08/17 0534 hours

**Type of Incident: Location:**

Fatal Traffic Collision, Santa Fe south of Walnut

**Involved Parties:**

Billie Jean Beals 54 years from Visalia (pedestrian)  
Jon Michael Mello Jr. 21 years from Tulare (driver)

**Details:**

On the listed date and time, the Visalia Police Department responded to Santa Fe south of Walnut for a vehicle vs pedestrian traffic collision. The investigation showed a 1999 Chevy being driven by Mello Jr. was traveling north on Santa Fe south of Walnut when it struck a female adult pedestrian who was in the N/B Santa Fe lanes of travel. The pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the scene. The pedestrian's identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The cause of this collision is being investigated by the Traffic Unit.

**Update:**

The pedestrian involved with this collision has been identified as 54 year old Billie Jean Beals of Visalia.

**Investigating Officers:** VPD Traffic Unit  
**Supervisor:** Lt. J. Andrews

