



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

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NEWS RELEASE

September 11, 2019

VPD Report Number: Date/Time Occurred

19-076062: 09/11/2019 / 1330 hrs.

Type of Incident: Location

Fatal Injury Traffic Collision: Court St. S/of Wren Dr.

Involved Parties:

Female – Bicyclist 61 yrs. – Visalia. Name withheld pending family notification.

Manuel Mesa– 40 yrs. – Visalia. Driver of a Honda Accord

Details:

On the listed date and time, the Visalia Police Department responded to Court and Wren for a report of a vehicle versus Bicyclist traffic collision. Officers found the vehicle driven by Mesa was traveling S/B Court S/of Wren when the Bicyclist was struck. The Bicyclist was traveling eastbound on the Modoc Ditch Bike Trail and failed to stop for traffic while crossing Court St. when she was struck by Mesa. Mesa stopped but did not render aid. Instead, he fled the scene and ran over the Bicyclist who was down in the road in front of his vehicle attempting to get up. The female was then drug underneath the Honda for a distance of approximately 200 yards causing the fatal injuries. She was transported by EMS and was pronounced deceased due to her injuries. Mesa sustained no injuries. Assisting Officers located the vehicle in the 1500 block of N Turner where Mesa was contacted. Mesa was positively identified as the driver by witnesses. Alcohol is a considered factor in this collision. Mesa was evaluated for DUI Alcohol/Drugs by the Visalia PD Motors Unit Drug Recognition Experts and found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and booked for DUI causing great bodily injury/death, hit-and-run, and homicide. The investigation is being conducted by the Visalia Police Department Traffic Unit. The collision is still under investigation.

Investigating Officers: Supervisor

VPD Traffic Unit:

Sgt. Mark Feller

