



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"

Robert P. Kochen
CHIEF OF POLICE

December 17, 2013

11:15pm

On Tuesday December 17, 2013 at approximately 8:59pm, the Tarpon Springs Police Department responded to a serious motor vehicle crash on Tarpon Ave. just east of Levis Ave.

The crash involved a 2007 Chevy Pickup truck driven by thirty two year old Wayne Smith, and two pedestrians, fifty seven year old Carl Dearing and sixty four year old Sue Simmons, all from Tarpon Springs.

The pickup truck was traveling west bound on Tarpon Ave. and had just passed Disston Ave. Carl Dearing was pushing a wheelchair, which was occupied by Sue Simmons, in the west bound travel lane of Tarpon Ave. They were observed by witnesses to have been obstructing traffic by walking in the westbound travel lane for several blocks. As the pickup truck approached them, the driver was unable to see either one, until he struck Carl Dearing and the wheelchair, causing Sue Simmons to be projected into the east bound lane of Tarpon Ave.

Both Carl Dearing and Sue Simmons were flown to Bayfront Medical Center where they are both in fair and stable condition at this time.

The pickup truck was estimated to have a vehicle speed of approximately 30 miles per hour, which was the speed limit in this area and was verified by a speed check analyzer sign.

This crash is still under investigation by members of the Tarpon Springs Police Department's Traffic Homicide Unit.

Any further inquiries can be directed to Sgt. Frank Ruggiero, Traffic Homicide Supervisor.
727-938-2849

Sgt. Frank Ruggiero



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