



# TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

*"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"*

**Robert P. Kochen**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Date: November 21, 2016

Time: 7:45 a.m.

On Monday, 11/21/16, at approximately 4:40 a.m. Tarpon Springs Fire and Police units were dispatched to a two car crash at U.S. 19 and Tarpon Ave. The vehicles involved were a 2013 Ford pickup truck and a 2017 Toyota Camry. Initial investigation indicated that the Toyota was southbound on U.S. 19 approaching Tarpon Ave. when the driver ran a red light and crashed into the Ford pickup truck that was traveling east on Tarpon Ave., across U.S. 19. Witness accounts placed the Toyota traveling at a high rate of speed at the time of the crash. The driver of the Ford pickup truck was transported to Bayonet Point Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The Toyota was discovered to be stolen, on November 11, 2016, out of St. Petersburg. Witnesses stated to investigators that an unknown white vehicle immediately arrived and picked up occupant(s) of the Toyota and left the scene. Investigators believe that the unknown white vehicle was possibly following the Toyota. The occupant(s) who left the scene in the unknown white vehicle are suspected to have sustained injuries, however the extent is unknown at this time. Anyone with information can contact Ofc. Steve Gassen at (727) 938-2849. The southbound lanes of U.S. 19 were closed from the time of the crash until 8:15 a.m. As of this release all northbound lanes of U.S. 19 are open as well.

Sgt. Robert Faugno



444 S. HUEY AVE., TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689 - PHONE (727) 938-2849  
WWW.TSPD.US

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