



PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to Cal Govt. Code Sect 6254(f)
San Jose Police Department
Press Information Office
201 W. Mission Street, San Jose, CA 95110
Ph (408) 277-5339 Fax (408) 286-0923

TYPE OF CRIME:Fatal Traffic Collision
LOCATION:Blossom Hill Rd./Winfield Rd.
VICTIM:Rene Velasquez
ADDRESS: Redwood City Resident
DRIVER: Michael Whatley (Deceased)
ADDRESS: San Jose Resident

CASE NUMBER: 01-155-0949
DATE: 6-4-01 **TIME:**6:00PM
AGE: 68yrs.
AGE: 50yrs.

DETAILS:

On 6-4-01 at 6:00PM, San Jose Police Officers responded on a major injury collision involving a vehicle and a Valley Transportation Train at Blossom Hill Rd. and Winfield Rd. Upon arrival, officers located two badly injured people inside a pickup truck. Paramedics responded to the scene. The driver of the truck was pronounced dead at the scene. The female passenger was transported to Valley Medical Center.

Preliminary Investigation indicated that the driver, Michael Whatley was driving his pickup truck westbound on Blossom Hill Rd. near Winfield Rd. A Valley Transportation Agency Light Rail Train was traveling northbound on the tracks crossing Blossom Hill Rd. West of Winfield Rd. Witnesses observed the truck maneuver through a small opening between the crossing arms. The train operator applied the brakes after seeing the truck nearing the tracks but did not have time to stop before hitting the driver's side of the vehicle.

Investigators later learned that the driver, Michael Whatley was driving while under the influence of acute methamphetamine intoxication. He was determined as the driver most at fault.

UPDATE:

On 6-15-05 at 10:35hrs., the passenger, Rene Velasquez died from complications of multiple blunt force trauma. Velasquez had been under the care of El Camino Hospital since the collision occurred.

The case has been reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. Criminal charges were declined.

BY: Ofc.Gina Tepoorten

DATE: 6-20-05

TIME:5:00PM

PRESS OFFICER BRIEFED BY UNIT COMMANDER (CIRCLE) **YES** NO

AUTHORIZED BY: Sgt.Lorrie Rogers

DATE: 6-20-05

TIME:5:00PM