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POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2008

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YOUNG WOMAN KILLED IN EARLY MORNING COLLISION

Date/Time: 01/22/2008 @ 12:18 a.m.
Location: 300 block of Fonseca
Vehicle: Black 1998 Ford Explorer
Driver: 21-year old Victor Soto of the 700 block of Medina
Passenger #1: 16-year old Maria De Jesus Valenzuela of the 200 block of South Ascarate
Passenger #2: 21-year old Maria De Luisa Valenzuela of the 200 block of South Ascarate (Deceased)

EL PASO, TEXAS – A young woman is killed in an early morning collision. Investigators with the Special Traffic Investigations Unit (STI) responded to the 300 block of Fonseca to assist Central Patrol with a traffic fatality. The preliminary investigation revealed 21-year old Victor Soto drove a 1998 Ford Explorer northbound on Fonseca with sisters, 16-year old Maria De Jesus Valenzuela (front passenger) and 21-year old Maria De Luisa Valenzuela (rear passenger), with him. Soto lost control of the vehicle and struck a rock wall. Maria De Luisa Valenzuela did not wear a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene. Both Soto and Maria De Jesus received minor injuries and were treated and released from Thomason Hospital. Investigators arrested and booked Soto into the El Paso County Detention Facility on one count of Intoxicated Manslaughter with a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000.00) bond. Investigators believe speed, alcohol, and Maria De Luisa's failure to wear a seatbelt as factors in this collision.





Victor Soto

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