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POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

January 4, 2008

Contact: Chris Mears, PIO @ 915.564.7322 or 915.564.6950 Pager #6468

THIRD TEEN IN DEADLY COLLISION DIES

Date/Time: 12/21/07 @ 2:50 a.m.
Location: 4000 block of E. Paisano
Vehicle: Black 2001 Ford Focus
Driver: 18-year old Vicente Munoz of the 3800 Block of Leticia (deceased 12/21/07)
Passenger #1: 17-year old Ricardo Flores of the 3800 Block of Hueco (**deceased 12/31/07**)
Passenger #2: 19-year old Jorge Pineda of the 2700 block of Fort Blvd (deceased 12/21/07)

EL PASO, TEXAS – The third teen in a deadly collision dies from his injuries. Investigators learned 17-year old Ricardo Flores died on December 31, 2007 from injuries he suffered in the collision on December 21, 2007 at 4000 E. Paisano. Flores was originally taken to Thomason Hospital in critical condition. Tragically, he passed away on New Year's Eve. This brings the total traffic fatalities for 2007 to fifty-eight compared to forty-seven in 2006.

HISTORY: Two teens were killed and another critically injured in an early morning single vehicle collision. The Special Traffic Investigations Unit (STI) responded to the 4000 block of E. Paisano to assist Central Patrol with a traffic fatality. The preliminary investigation revealed 18-year old Vicente Munoz drove a 2001 Ford Focus eastbound on Paisano at high rate of speed. Munoz lost control of the vehicle striking a wall and rolling. Tragically, Munoz and 19-year old Jorge Pineda, the rear passenger, died at the scene from their injuries. 17-year old Ricardo Flores, the front passenger, was taken by ambulance to Thomason Hospital where he remains in critical condition. Investigators believe speed and alcohol were factors in this collision. All three were wearing seatbelts. Investigation continues.

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