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**NEWS
RELEASE**

06/28/2021

33rd Traffic Fatality

Date: 06/27/2021

Time: 12:23 PM

Location: 9800 Diana Dr / 9400 Gateway North Blvd

Vehicle: 2006 Jeep Commander

Driver: 30 –year old Catherine Ann Polanco of the 11500 block of Sonny Madrid Ln.

Passenger: 11 –year old child

Passenger 3 –year old child

Vehicle: 2011 Lincoln Navigator

Driver: 60 –year old Kenith Earl Smith of 4600 block of R.T. Cassidy Dr. (Deceased)

Passenger: 57 –year old Sandra Smith of the 4600 block of R.T. Cassidy Dr.

EL PASO, Texas — Special Traffic Investigations responded yesterday to Diana Dr. and Gateway North Blvd. on a 2 –vehicle collision resulting in a fatality. Investigators learned 30 –year old Catherine Ann Polanco was eastbound in the right lane at the 9800 block of Diana. 60 –year old Kenith Earl Smith was traveling north in the center lane of the 9400 block of Gateway North. Both vehicles entered the intersection and a T-bone type collision occurred. The Jeep Commander driven by Polanco struck Smith’s Lincoln Navigator causing the vehicle to spin out, collide into and wrap around a traffic light pole. Emergency responders utilized the Jaws of Life equipment to extricate Mr. Smith, who succumbed to his injuries at University Medical Center. His passenger, 57 –year old Sandra Smith suffered serious injuries and was admitted to UMC where she remains in stable condition. Polanco sustained minor injuries. A red light violation is believed to be the main contributing factor in the crash, however, the investigation continues into which driver was at fault. This is the 33rd traffic fatality of 2021 compared to 41 this time last year.



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