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**1/10/2018**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Pedestrian Fatality 600 S Mesa Hills**

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 9, 2017 @ 6:17 p.m.  
Location: 600 S. Mesa Hills  
Vehicle 1: 2008 Mazda CX9  
Driver: 20-year old Cory Do of El Paso, TX  
Passenger 1: 21-year old Stephon Foster of El Paso, TX  
Vehicle 2: 2012 Honda Odyssey (PARKED)  
Pedestrian: 80-year old Richard Appelgren of Minnetonka, MN

**EL PASO, Texas** – The El Paso Police Department’s Special Traffic Investigations (STI) unit was called to investigate a fatal traffic collision involving a vehicle and pedestrian Tuesday evening.

On January 9, 2018, just after 6:00 p.m., officers from the Westside Regional Command responded to the 600 block of S. Mesa Hills on a traffic collision involving a pedestrian. Officers arrived and found 80-year old Richard Appelgren (Pedestrian) with life threatening injuries.

Investigators with the El Paso Police Department’s Special Traffic Investigation unit responded to continue the investigation. The preliminary investigation revealed that Mr. Appelgren had been operating a 2012 Odyssey north on S. Mesa Hills when he may have struck a dog in the roadway. He pulled his vehicle to the side of the right lane and exited the vehicle, possibly to check on the injured dog, which was in the left lane. At the same time a 2008 Mazda CX9 (Driver: Cory Do) was north on S. Mesa Hills in the left lane and saw the injured dog. The driver of the Mazda moved to the right lane to avoid the dog and struck the Pedestrian and Vehicle #2. Mr. Appelgren (pedestrian) was transported to University Medical Center (UMC) where he died. STI has identified Failure to Control Speed as a Factor on the part of Vehicle 1, the dog in the roadway, and pedestrian in the roadway all as contributing factors in the fatal collision. This investigation continues.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> traffic fatality of 2018 compared to 1 during this same time period in 2017.

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