



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: January 1, 2023, at about 3:40 p.m.
Incident: 2023-3396
Location: 3800 North 51st Avenue
Victim: Faila Butunga, 72-years-old, deceased

Three Car Collision Leaves a Woman Dead

(January 1, 2023) Phoenix police detectives investigate what led up to the fatal collision near 3800 North 51st Avenue that left a 72-year-old woman deceased.

Phoenix police responded to a vehicle collision involving three vehicles at about 3:40 p.m. on January 1, 2023. When officers arrived on scene, they identified an adult female from one of the vehicles who had suffered life-threatening injuries. The woman was taken to a local hospital by fire personnel where she did not survive her injuries.

Investigators arrived on scene and learned that the primary vehicle, driven by an adult male, was southbound on 51st Avenue and drifted into the northbound lane. The second vehicle involved, driven by a juvenile male, was traveling northbound on 51st Avenue when it was struck by the primary vehicle. This collision then caused a third vehicle, driven by an adult female, to strike the second vehicle before coming to a rest.

The deceased victim was identified as a passenger for the primary vehicle along with two younger children who were both taken to local hospitals with serious injuries. The drivers of all three vehicles involved were all evaluated for impairment. No signs of intoxication were suspected by any of the three drivers.

Weather is believed to be a factor in the cause of this collision.

Sergeant Brian Bower
Public Affairs Bureau

