



NEWS RELEASE

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INFORMATION SOUGHT FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING FATAL HIT-AND-RUN IN AREA OF WAGARAW ROAD AND PASSAIC STREET IN HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

June 29, 2023

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Hawthorne Police Chief James W. Knepper announce that investigators are seeking the assistance of the public regarding any information about a hit-and-run crash that occurred in the evening hours on June 28, 2023, in the area of Wagaraw Road and Passaic Street in Hawthorne, New Jersey. Police are searching for a gray-colored 2004 Ford F-150.

At approximately 8:46 p.m., the Hawthorne Police Department received information concerning a hit-and-run motor vehicle incident in the area of Wagaraw Road and Passaic Street in Hawthorne, New Jersey. It was reported that a gray-colored Ford F-150 bearing New Jersey registration W73-MCN struck a pedestrian, later identified as Joe Bender, an 83-year-old male from Hawthorne, New Jersey. The Ford F-150 then fled the area. The victim was transported to Saint Joseph's University Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

This investigation is active and ongoing. More information will be released when it becomes available.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org or contact the Hawthorne Police Department at (973) 427-1800.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Allan Nawrocki of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Fatal Investigations Unit at anawrocki@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 837-7768.



Ford F-150