



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Police Department

2030 North Arlington Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
18-730-5400 | www.duluthmn.gov | Gordon Ramsay, Chief of Police



For more information contact Ron Tinsley, Public Information Officer 218-391-1510

DATE: 1/21/2016

SUBJECT: Fatal Car/Pedestrian Incident

BY: Public Information Officer Russ Bradley

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Fatal Car/Pedestrian Incident

CASE NO.: 16014087

INCIDENT DATE: 1/20/2016

INCIDENT TIME: 1800

INCIDENT LOCATION: Grand Ave/56th Ave W

Fatal Car/Pedestrian Accident

On 1/20/2016 at 1800 hours, Duluth Police squads were dispatched to the intersection of 56th Avenue West / Grand Avenue on a report of a male who had been hit by a vehicle. The preliminary investigation at the scene was conducted by Duluth Police officers and the Duluth Police Crash Investigations Unit with assistance by the Minnesota State Patrol. The investigation revealed that Melvin Joseph Stelton, 89, of Duluth, was crossing Grand Avenue on foot in the area of 56th Avenue West when he was struck by an SUV traveling westbound on Grand Avenue, driven by John Daniel Patzner, 52, of Duluth. After striking Stelton, Patzner, pulled to the side of the road, activated his flashing warning lights, and got out of his vehicle to render aid. Shortly after Patzner stopped, Stelton was struck by a second westbound vehicle, a Ford Pickup driven by Timothy Trent Klobucher, 44, of Duluth. Duluth Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance personnel were dispatched to the scene where Stelton was pronounced dead.

The preliminary investigation into this incident revealed that excessive speed, distraction, and impairment were not factors in this crash. No criminal charges have resulted from this incident at this time as the investigation continues.

Anyone who witnessed this incident is encouraged to contact the Duluth Police Department Crash Investigations Unit at (218) 730-5666.