



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Deadly weekend on Norfolk County roads, 2 crashes remain under investigation

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Separate collisions in Stoughton and Franklin claimed the lives of a little girl walking with her mother and a young man operating his motorcycle in his home town this weekend. Both crashes remain under investigation by police in those communities with assistance from the Motor Vehicle Homicide Unit of the Norfolk District Attorney's Office.

At roughly 2:45 Friday afternoon, 3-year-old Shayla Lutz, of Stoughton, was crossing Central Street with her mother in the area of the Hansen Elementary School. Initial witness statements and investigation indicate that Shayla may have darted away, striking the side of a passing box truck, causing injuries. She was transported from the scene but did not survive her injuries. She was pronounced dead at the Good Samaritan Medical Center.

Although the investigation will not be concluded until Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section (CARS) has issued its final report, the evidence at the scene, interviews with eye-witnesses, and other investigation by the Stoughton Police, State Police and Norfolk District Attorney's Office does not support criminal charges in this incident at this time.

The investigation has not produced evidence that speed or impairment were a factor in this collision. Initial indications are that the collision did not take place in the vicinity of a crosswalk. Because the driver of the truck has not been charged or cited with any infraction his name is not being released.

At or about 11:17 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, 2011, 20-year-old Garrett Haganey was operating a 2005 Honda CBR600 motorcycle, traveling north in the vicinity of 310 Washington Street in his hometown, Franklin, Mass. While the Franklin Police Department has not yet finalized its collision analysis and reconstruction report, witness interviews and initial evidence at the scene suggest that Haganey pulled out to pass a motor vehicle in front of him and in doing so moved into the oncoming lane of travel. That area of Washington Street is a no-passing zone. His motor cycle struck a Jeep being driven by a local couple in the Jeep's lane of travel. While the investigation is continuing, the evidence in the Franklin collision has not at this time precipitated any kind of criminal charge or citation to the operator of the Jeep.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.