



LODI POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Release Date and Time: November 24, 2006 @ 7:30 PM

Occurrence Date and Time: November 24, 2006 @ 3:12 PM

Subject: Child Struck by Van and Killed

LPD Case #: 06-12226

PIO Contact: Lt. William Barry @ 209-329-2966 or wbarry@pd.lodi.gov.

Details: Members of the Lodi Police Department's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) have just completed processing the scene of a vehicle accident that claimed the life of a toddler this afternoon. At about 3:12 PM, emergency crews responded to a 911 call that a child had been struck by a van in the alley behind 325 E. Elm Street. On their arrival they found 19 month-old Julio Ceasar Ruiz lying on the pavement near a van belonging to a local market. He had sustained massive head injuries, and was determined by EMS personnel to be deceased.

The scene was secured and MAIT personnel were called in to conduct the investigation. The driver of the van was determined to be Adriana Caballero, a 21 year-old resident of Stockton, and an employee of Rancho San Miguel Market in Lodi. She voluntarily accompanied a MAIT investigator to the Lodi Police facility for a detailed interview. The child's mother, who was present when the accident occurred, was assisted by LPD Chaplains. The family lives in a nearby apartment complex, and has indicated that they do not wish to speak to media representatives at this time.

The preliminary investigation has revealed no apparent evidence of recklessness or alcohol use by the van driver, or of child neglect by family members. The investigation will now focus on the exact movements of the parties in an attempt to determine the cause of this tragedy. This will involve detailed review of the witness statements and physical evidence, which will likely take several days. At that time, a press release will be issued indicating the primary collision factor.

Persons having further information on this case may contact the lead investigator, Officer Larry Vietz, at 209-333-6800 X 2531 or lvietz@pd.lodi.gov.

Persons with information on this or any criminal case or activity are encouraged to call Lodi Area Crimestoppers at 209-333-6771. You may remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.