



PRESS RELEASE

Investigation into Fatal Traffic Crash with Warren Police remains ongoing

The Warren Police Department would like to provide a summary and update to a traffic crash involving two Warren Police Officers which occurred yesterday (09/30/2024) at Schoenherr and Prospect.

On 09/30/2024 at approximately 05:00am, two Warren Patrol Officers in a fully marked Warren Patrol Car were traveling southbound on Schoenherr near Toepfer in the City of Warren. While traveling on Schoenherr near Prospect, the officers struck a white Dodge Durango which was attempting to turn westbound onto Prospect from Schoenherr. Both Warren Officers suffered serious injuries with the officer in the passenger seat sustaining critical injuries including several broken bones and head trauma. The Warren Fire Department arrived on scene and extricated this officer from the vehicle. Both the driver and passenger officer were transported to an area hospital wherein they were listed in critical condition. Sadly, both the driver and the passenger of the Dodge Durango were pronounced deceased. The occupants of the Dodge have been positively identified as 34-year-old Cedric Hayden and 33-year-old DeJuan Pettis. Investigators have been in contact with both Hayden and Pettis' next of kin. As of last check this morning, both officers remain hospitalized in stable condition at an area hospital with the passenger officer having undergone an extensive surgery yesterday.

There has been much speculation regarding this crash being related to a pursuit or other crimes being investigated by the Warren Police Department on 09/30/2024. The Warren Police Department can confirm that this crash was not the result of a vehicle pursuit. At no time were these officers engaged in a pursuit of the white Dodge Durango or any other vehicle when the crash occurred. In addition, while a business break-in and vehicle pursuit did occur at a nearby business a few hours after this crash, investigators are confident that Hayden and Pettis were not suspects in any business break-ins currently under investigation by the Warren Police Department. Moreover, investigators are certain that the Dodge was legally registered to Pettis and thus was not considered or investigated as a stolen vehicle.

In order to have a comprehensive investigation void of any potential biases or conflicts of interests, the Warren Police Department contacted the Macomb County Sheriff's Office to conduct an independent investigation into the totality of this unfortunate incident. This speaks to the Warren Police Department's commitment to transparency, accountability, and objectivity. We understand and respect that the public has important questions regarding this incident. However, to maintain the integrity of the ongoing investigation and to ensure the accuracy of the facts, we ask for the public's patience while the Macomb County Sheriff's Office completes their investigation as investigations of this magnitude typically take some time. We will share additional information with the public as soon as the investigation is finalized.

**For further information, please contact Warren Police Commissioner
Charles Rushton @ 586-574-4803 or 586-823-9845**